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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

AMAZED BY CHEDENG' Children in Aparri, Cagayan, frolic on the seashore unmindful of, even enjoying, the big waves churned by the winds of Typhoon "Chedeng."

Ampatuan jailer relieved

'Chedeng' is gone; so is summer

By Kristine L. Alave and Dona Pazybugan

SUMMER IS gone, the wet season is here, and hence your advisory for potential typhoons—maybe about a dozen more...in the next four months.

Weather forecasters sounded the warning yesterday as Typhoon "Chedeng" headed out of the country, leaving in its wake a stronger southwest monsoon and signaling the end of summer.

Although it entered mostly on Thursday night and headed toward western Japan, Chedeng still left two people dead and forced some 260,000 others to seek shelter in evacuation centers in the Philippines, officials said.

"The rainy season is here," chief forecaster Robert Sawi of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said at a news briefing.

CONTINUED ON A6

Flag flap on Palace website

By Norman Bordadora

ANOTHER 'messaging' gaffe involving an error in the way the Philippine flag is displayed has discomposed the Aquino administration.

For a few minutes last Thursday, the flag was posted on President Aquino's www.gov.ph website with the red field instead of blue on top.

PAGE A6

A TOAST FOR STRONGER TIES President Aquino offers a toast to Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva at the state banquet rendered by the latter at the Dusit Saint Hotel building on Thursday. Mr. Aquino embarked on a two-day visit to the kingdom aimed at further strengthening the Philippines' relations with Thailand and at expanding cooperation within the framework of Southeast Asian Nations. (Story on Page A3.)

₱315-M lotto pot will still be tax-free

By Penelope Endaya

TORMENTY Grand Lotto winner will get to keep every cent of the estimated P315 million jackpot after all.

Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) chair Margarita Juico (seated) has given the assurance that Jinky winnings will continue to be tax-free.

"For the record, there is no plan nor a proposal to tax lotto winnings," Juico said.

"I assure the betting public that the lotto jackpot prizes will continue to be tax-free. There is no mandate, this is our commitment," she said.

The PCSO chair said that news reports that the state-run lottery agency was planning to impose a 20-percent withholding tax on lotto winnings were the result of "misinterpretation."

The report is most triggered by an announcement from presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda earlier this week that President Aquino had asked the PCSO to submit a draft bill of its proposal to tax lotto winnings. He said Juico had made the proposal.

Juico clarified in a statement yesterday that the proposal she made to Mr. Aquino last week was to have the PCSO exempted from paying taxes until let the Palace reconsider lowering the documentary stamp tax levied by the Bureau of Internal Revenue on PCSO rules from 1.5

TO A2 PAGE

There's no stopping Tingting

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Tyler Cruz

THE PRESIDENT'S aunt is not about to let her nephew Noynoy Aquino, who is working for the postponement of the Aug. 8 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, stop her from becoming one of the region's top officials.

"Now can you pay me, a woman who is so revolutionary in her ideas and with qualifications, in a short... just because he may say that he doesn't want his relatives around him?" Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco said yesterday.

"I will not be restrained."

Cojuangco, who recently filed her candidacy for ARMM vice governor, spoke at a Manila forum where PDP-Laban presented its line-up of candidates in the elections in the predominantly Muslim region.

PDP-Laban president Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III said that after a thorough deliberation, the party had chosen Cojuangco as running mate of former Sultan Kudarat Trp. Sta. Mariguadalata, a veteran Muslim politician who will run for governor.

Pimentel said the party was "thinking out of the box" when it decided to field "a Muslim who has won Christian hearts

PAGE A6

Heads roll as DILG chief acts swiftly

By DJ Yap in Manila and Marlon Ramos in Bangkok

INTERIOR Secretary Jesse Robredo's action was swift: the administrative relief of the warden of the Quezon City Jail Annex in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, over the alleged special treatment of members of the Ampatuan clan accused of masterminding the 2009 Maguindanao massacre.

Robredo said the relief of Chief Insp. Chumbert Valdez, police officer yesterday was akin to a prevent for suspension to prevent him from influencing an inquiry into the purported privileges granted former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr. and other powerful prisoners.

All the other officers, numbering about 20, in the high-security jail at Camp Bagong Diwa were also administratively relieved by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. They have been reassigned to other posts pending the outcome of the inquiry, according to BJMP Director Rosendo Diel.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu complained on Thursday that members of the Ampatuan clan suspected responsible for the massacre of at

ARMY CLAIMS MY

Cabinet shakeup: Paje, Robredo to keep posts

By Marlon Ramos with Norman Bordadora in Manila

BANGKOK—President Aquino has decided to make permanent the appointments of Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, ending speculation that they would soon be replaced by his political allies.

The President's announcement on Thursday night to reporters covering his state visit to Thailand negated earlier reports that losing Liberal Party senatorial candidate Mercedes Alvarez was a cinch for the environment

CABINET, MY

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It's Miami Heat vs Dallas Mavericks in NBA finals / A26

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2011

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

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4/42 1 6 4 5 3 4
2D 3 2 5 1 9 5 7
MEGA LOTTO 6/45 23 26 27 34 37 40 P7,940,560.60

PH, Thailand pep up trade ties

P-Noy state visit revives 3 bilateral business bodies

By Marlon Ramos

BANGKOK—President Aquino arrived yesterday evening from a two-day state visit to Thailand, reporting that expanded business ties between the two countries could be expected.

The President also expressed relief that Typhoon "Chedeng" veered away from the country, although noting that two deaths were attributed to the weather disturbance. "Hope there will be no more," he added.

Before leaving Thailand, Mr. Aquino and Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva announced the activation of three trade bodies to facilitate better business partnerships and cooperation between the two countries.

In a joint news briefing after hour-long bilateral talks on Thursday night, Abhisit said he and President Aquino had agreed to revive the Sth Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC), "after a four-year hiatus."

The meeting between the two heads of state at the Government House, Thailand's seat of political power, highlighted the President's two-day state visit here.

Shared commitment

"(President Aquino's) visit has reaffirmed the close friendship and rooted relations between our two countries, as well as our shared commitment to further expand our bilateral cooperation in a wide range of issues," Abhisit said in his speech.

"Our warm and friendly relations are based on mutual respect and trust," he added.

The Thai prime minister said the trade body would help "encourage government agencies (discuss) ways to enhance trade relations and work together to spur economic development in both countries."

An Oxford-educated economist, Abhisit said the joint panel would hold its first meeting in the Philippines in August.

"The JCBC will be a forum to review ongoing cooperation, to plan future actions and to explore new opportunities in every dimension of cooperation," he said.

Abhisit also disclosed the convening of a second body, the Joint Trade Committee to allow both governments to "further discuss in a comprehensive manner the issues pertaining to trade and investment between Thailand and the Philippines."

A third body to be formed is a Joint Working Group on Energy, "since the two governments believe that this energy sector offers tremendous opportunities" for both Thai and Filipino businesses, Abhisit said.

For his part, Mr. Aquino thanked Abhisit and the Thai government for facilitating improved economic relations with the Philippines.

In his speech, Mr. Aquino said he recognized Thailand's role as an important producer and one that shares the country's democratic ideals.

"Those shared values make Thailand an important partner ... When we have issues with other countries, Thailand will count with us just as we will stand with (Thailand)," he said.

Transnational crimes

He said he also invited Thai businessmen to invest in the Philippines through the Public-Private Partnership program of his government.

According to Mr. Aquino, the two countries also discussed the importance of unifying efforts to stop transnational crimes such as drug trafficking, piracy, agricultural smuggling and illegal fishing practices, particularly cyanide.

"We also discussed cooperation in education because many of the Filipinos in Thailand are teachers," he said.

In his closing remarks, he said there would also be closer cooperation between the two countries in preventing natural disasters, "bearing in mind that our two countries come from the same region of the world."

With Norman Bordadora

NEW SM SUPERMARKET

Inquirer president and CEO Marixenia Prieto-Bonnevie (left) exchanges pleasantries with Felicidad Ty, wife of SM founder Henry Sy Sr., and SM Supermarket president Herbert Sy at the opening of the new SM Supermarket at SM Megamall Bldg. A. At the center stage of the new brightly-colored store is its fresh section where meat, poultry and seafood products are kept up to temperature-controlled measure. GLENN ALVEN

4 ex-mayors face graft raps

By Lolo B. Salaverria

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has filed criminal cases against the ex-mayor of Tagaytay City and four former mayors for various offenses ranging from allowing illegal bingo games to making a former gubernatorial ghost employee.

Tagaytay City Mayor Darlo Tolentino now heads the list of violators of the graft law for allegedly allowing the demolition of the Tagaytay City Central Public Market without any authorization.

Ting, according to the complaint was only allowed by a city development council to upgrade the market. The complaint against him alleged that the market's demolition caused undue injury to the government because the demolished portion was P.6 million while the property's book value before the demolition was P2.6 million.

Also facing graft cases are former Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr., Koronadal Administrator Wilfredo Palomares, and Puguey's Bingo Inc. partner and herself Muslimin Dipuyo. The Office of the Ombudsman found them liable for allowing BOC Enterprises to operate bingo games even though they lacked a mayor's business permit and were delinquent in paying business fees and taxes.

Former Sta. Teresa, Batulia Mayor Antonio Tobias, municipal treasurers Elmer Cayosh and municipal accountant Florante Celestino were ordered charged for failing to remit P22 million worth of payments to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) from 1997 to 2006.

The GSIS was the one that had filed the complaint against the officials.

Meanwhile, former Colonel Bienvenido Tumpag was ordered charged with falsification of a public document for allegedly issuing a certification that misled then Assistant de Jesus Prudente, said to be his former boss in pursuit, was residing as a property custodian for the Provincial Capitol of Cebu.

The Office of the Ombudsman said Prudente was never employed by the Cebuano municipality. Ombudsman had apparently issued the certification to help Prudente's visa application.

Former Mayor Jorge Bermudez of Marinduque, who was also ordered charged for continuing to sign and approve disbursements of government funds even though he was already with another office.

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Show biz, politics mix in Revillas' anniversary

By TJ Burgonio

THE BIG names in politics, show biz, business and media lead the cast of principal sponsors at the renewal of wedding vows by Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. and his wife, Cavite Rep. Lani Mercado-Revilla today.

Former President Joseph Estrada, one of the sponsors, is paired with his successor and political enemy, former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, according to the wedding invitation.

They will be joined by another former President, Fidel V. Ramos, and his wife, former First Lady Amelita Ramos.

Congress only shrunk in the east of space, now is President Aquino, who incidentally will stand as the best man at the renewal of vows of Sen. Manuel Villar and Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada on June 19.

"There's nothing political about it," Revilla said in reply to questions about why Mr. Aquino wasn't among the sponsors. He explained that the real sponsors were the same set of sponsors they had during their 1998 church wedding. They were first wed in 1980.

The reasons, however, said that the couple had invited Mr. Aquino to the wedding but he did not confirm his attendance.

Revilla, president of the Lakas-Kampi party that brought Arroyo to power in 2004, denied reports that the party was plotting to withdraw against the Aquino administration's attacks on the senator.

Revilla and his wife are renewing their wedding vows to mark their 25th anniversary at the Shrine of St. Therese of the Child in Mandaluyong on the eve of 9 p.m. on today.

The list of sponsors also include Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who is paired with Quezon City Councilor Jose Emmanuel Eleazar, wife of Environment Secretary Ramon Paje; Senator Manuel Villar and former Speaker Jose de Venecia and wife Rep. Gwendolyn de Venecia.

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Doc dances vs dengue

NO COMPROMISE MEASURE

Bill on unborn child won't go with RH bill

By TJ Burgonio

THE BILL protecting the rights of the unborn child will be treated separately from the reproductive health (RH) bill in the Senate because the two measures do not necessarily go together, Sen. Pia Cayetano said yesterday.

Cayetano, who chairs the health committee that tackled the RH bill in the chamber, also reiterated the idea that the Declaration of the Unborn Child bill was a compromise measure to the controversial RH bill.

"My initial review tells me that, yes, they're overlapping, but they're very different. We can argue till the sun sets but at some point you have to draw the line and focus," she said in an interview.

The health committee wrapped up its hearings on the RH bill late in February. Cayetano has indicated that she was ready to sponsor the committee report before Congress adjourns sine die on June 6.

The Senate version of the RH bill compels the state to guarantee universal access to medically safe, legal, affordable and quality reproductive health services, devices, supplies and relevant information.

The other bill, as its name states, seeks to uphold the rights and promote the welfare of the unborn child.

Monday hearing

The committee on women, youth and family relations, also chaired by Cayetano, is to hold a hearing on Monday on the bills on the protection of the unborn child filed by Sen. Pres. Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada and Senators Ralph Recto and Ramon Revilla Jr.

Cayetano said the duration should not necessarily be incorporated in the RH bill.

"The two bills are two different matters. I won't change my feelings about it," she said, reiterating the idea of the protection of the Unborn Child bill as a compromise measure.

"How can it be a compromise bill? It doesn't speak of women's access to health care and health services. It doesn't define the elements to contraception with reproductive health," she added.

No money involved

While the debate on the RH bill is now in full swing in the House of Representatives, it has yet to start in the Senate because Cayetano has yet to present the committee report on the bill.

Recto, who, like Enrile, has declared opposition to the RH bill, said the two bills could be combined. But he said his preference was that they be treated separately.

"[The Protection of the Unborn Child bill] has higher chances of getting approved because there's no money involved," Recto said in an interview, referring to the appropriations for reproductive health and natural and artificial family planning in the RH bill.

CAYETANO

Germany urges talks on Naia 3

THE GERMAN embassy in Manila called for a Filipino-German huddle to negotiate a settlement to end a festering legal dispute over the country's congested main airport terminal.

The embassy said the six-year-old dispute could drag on for years more, preventing the full use of the much-needed Terminal 3 or two other Manila passenger terminals use and fill up beyond capacity.

"We... reiterate that a negotiated settlement between all parties involved would be the best way out of the present impasse," the embassy said in a statement.

A swift settlement would also encourage the international business community to invest in the Philippines which is trying to attract private capital to fund much-needed infrastructure, it added.

Pasay City court on Tuesday ordered the government to pay $176 million in compensation for using the terminal in 2004. The ruling rejected the Filipino-German builders' demand for $646.4 M compensation.

Plans to appeal

Officials welcomed the court decision, but the builders, Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (PIATCO), a consortium that includes German airport operator Fraport, have said they will appeal.

Fraport has also separately submitted the case to the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes in Washington.

These moves may just prolong the legal dispute and prevent contractors from completing and renovating the terminal, the German embassy warned.

Low-quality work

Then-president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared the contract Native had signed in 1997 with the previous government of Joseph Estrada illegal and had the project expropriated in December 2004.

The Arroyo administration said Clone had been many breaches of contract, including the use of substandard materials and failure to conform to safety standards.

It reclaimed a prolonged legal battle that caused many delays in the completion of the terminal, originally built to serve 13 million passengers per year.

It opened for limited use by three local budget carriers in July 2008 but foreign carriers still use a crumbling 20-year-old terminal that was built to serve 4.9 million passengers per year. AFP

Another Pinoy tornado fatality

THE DEPARTMENT of foreign affairs (DFA) has confirmed that another Filipino died in the tornado that struck the town of Joplin, Missouri, in the United States on May 22.

Emelita Mercancio Moore was reportedly carried out of her apartment by the strong wind when the twister struck.

The Philippine Consulate in Chicago has sent a "message of sympathy" to Moore's sister, Mae Upbegrove, and assured the family of the mission's assistance, the DFA said.

The consulate confirmed earlier the death of another Filipina, Grace Aquino, 48, who died while trying to save her son Jacob, 11, from the deadly tornado that devastated parts of the US Midwest and left more than 120 others dead.

Jacob, who gave an account of the incident by phone to the grandmother in Pampanga last Monday said he and his mom had just arrived at a church service when the tragedy struck. He said his mother had embraced him to protect him from a falling concrete post.

The consulate is now coordinating with the office of the honorary consulate for the relocation of Moore's remains to their families, the DFA said. Tina G. Santos

DOJ chief names acting head of BuCor

By Jerome Aning

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday said she has named lawyer Manuel G. Co, head of the Parole and Probation Administration (PPA), as officer-in-charge of the Bureau of Corrections.

De Lima said Co will continue his regular functions as PPA chief but will also oversee the day-to-day operations of the BuCor.

But Co Director Emerson Dedoc Blibid is been of absence as the Department of Justice began investigating possible lapses committed by prison officials following an escape by a fellow-inmate that homicide convict Jose Antonio Leviste. Retired Batangas governor had been making unauthorized trips outside the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City.

De Lima's order stated that Co's designation as BuCor OIC "shall not include policy determination, approval of long-term contracts, and matters which by their nature are reasonably within the authority of the Secretary of Justice."

"I chose him to be the OIC because he is really competent and has a related field of expertise...parolee and parole. But he will remain under close supervision by me and Undersecretary Francisco Ruiz Jr. I don't want a power vacuum (in the BuCor) while Dedoc is on leave," she explained.

DE LIMA

She said she did not want to designate a BuCor "insider" as the OIC.

"I don't want to designate an insider because everyone one of them there is under a cloud of doubt," she said.

De Lima also said if Dedoco resigned or was fired, it does not mean that Co would be the permanent director, adding that Co would remain as PPA administrator.

The secretary said the DOJ panel which investigated the liabilities of BuCor and NBP officials and guards regarding Leviste's unauthorized trips was still preparing its final report.

"They are working double time. The report will pass through Undersecretary Ruiz, then to me and I will submit it to the President. I need to see that the findings are comprehensive and if the recommendations are correct and 'in sync' with the factual findings," she said.

"I have to prepare a memorandum containing my own insights," she said, adding that she had the prerogative to make changes in the report. At the end of the day I'm accountable to the President," she added.

De Lima said she was waiting for the report of the panel chaired by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Susan Ducusin and would go through it carefully. She said she may ask for a "little more time, maybe until Monday to submit the report to Malacañang."

She also said the report would list down why were responsible for the lapses and recommend reforms in the BuCor.

De Lima said there would likely be a revamp and transfers of assignments, covering all officers and regular personnel. She said even jail guards would undergo reorientation because "it is apparent that some of them are not professionals at all."

Samsung execs cleared by DOJ

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has dismissed the complaint for syndicated and large-scale illegal recruitment, estafa and theft filed against executives of Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. (Seipco) for alleged failure to bring some 500 personnel of a Philippine manpower agency.

In a 63-page resolution, Assistant State Prosecutor Nailene Isabella found no probable cause to hold Samsung executives liable for the charges filed by complainant Vivian Asuncion, chairman of Jumps and Steffen Inc. (JSI), a Filipino manpower agency that had provided promo merchandisers and office-based personnel to Seipco.

The feud between JSI and Seipco was sparked by September 2010 decision to change its business model and choose another manpower provider.

Ground of criminal charges were Seipco's Byung Chull Huh, president and chief executive officer; Beom Hee Lee, chief financial officer; and other 12 Seipco officials in charge of the company's mobile phone business unit, corporate affairs, human resources, marketing, production and regional branches.

Seipco, a subsidiary of the South Korean-based consumer electronics company Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., is engaged in the marketing and distribution of consumer electronic products televisions, home appliances, air conditioning systems, mobile phones and information technology products.

The DOJ also ordered similar charges dropped against Jim Byung Kim of ISI Human Tech, which JSI had accused of both using the absorption or pirating of TSIs TSI employees.

Isabella ruled that Seipco and the manpower provider ISI Human Tech cannot be held liable for syndicated and large-scaled illegal recruitment under Article 38 of the Labor Code because the complainant failed to establish that any of the alleged employees of Seipco "personally induced or encouraged to induce any one of the employees of JSI to quit their employment."

Even if the TSI employees were recruited or transfer to other manpower agencies before their contracts with TSI ended, it was clear that the affected employment was to take effect after their contract with TSI had expired, the prosecutor said.

The prosecutor also noted that TSI failed to present a single piece of evidence to establish that the firm still had the right over the employees after the termination of their contracts of employment.

Moreover, the complainant failed to consider that these employees are human beings and not commodities. They have their own rights and privileges. One of them is the right to choose their own employer, especially if the latter by TSI or other manpower agencies after the end of their contract with TSI," Isabella said.

The prosecutor also also pointed out that Geertsen's claim that Seipco forced the transfer of TSI employees to ISI Human Tech were unfounded, adding that evidence showed that Seipco officials had consented other manpower agencies to look for employees.

Jerome Aning

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Creation of climate change cluster in Cabinet cheered

SENATE President Juan Ponce Enrile has lauded the move by President Aquino to include climate change among the top five issues that will require coordinated action and budgetary intervention from the Palace.

Apart from climate change, other priority issues named in the EO were anti-corruption, power, economic development and poverty reduction.

"The President has displayed responsive leadership by elevating climate change into a priority issue. A few more tweaks in the plan are still needed but we're almost there. The disaster risks require decisive action than ordinary public finance to protect vulnerable Filipino communities from the worst impacts of climate change," Enrile said in a press statement.

Malacañang announced on May 16 the issuance of Executive Order No. 43, which reorganized cabinet clusters based on priority issues that advance what the Aquino administration calls as "social contract with the Filipino people."

Enrile is the author of Senate Bill 2634, a landmark measure seeking to establish the People's Survival Fund, or the PSF, for local governments and communities. The PSF provides incentives for early climate action from localities, which can tap the fund to support local climate adaptation plans, vulnerability assessments and similar initiatives.

The PSF can be used by localities threatened by persistent flooding, coastal erosion, intensifying rainy season levels, or LGUs seeking to promote agricultural programs resilient to extreme temperatures and changing rainfall.

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Pinoys won't flee Yemen yet

By Tina G. Santos

MOST of the Filipinos in conflict-wracked Yemen are not coming home despite the Philippine government's call for their voluntary repatriation.

According to Ambassador designate Nasrullah Davidio Tago, many of the 1,402 Filipinos registered with the Philippine Embassy in Sanaa, expressed their desire to cooperate despite the political tension and escalating violence in the Middle East country.

"Many of them have expressed desire to stay as Yemen, saying they are gainfully employed and believe they are safe in their places of work and residences," Tago said. "There are, however, have also expressed desire that they have an evacuation plan should there be a need to move out."

To date, only 60 Filipinos in Yemen have availed themselves of the government's voluntary repatriation program.

"Sure for them, most of these 1,800 Filipinos are overseas and there are precautions that must be availed before the Yemeni Passports Authority agrees to issue them an exit visa," Tago said.

He added that the embassy has already made representations with the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting a waiver of the penalties.

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'Chedeng' rains on town's 325th anniversary festival

BAGAS, Isabela—Typhoon "Chedeng" may have skirted northern Luzon, but residents here woke up on Friday to a spoiled festival morning because of the rains.

Officials had set up a long line of grills, intending to mourn the longest non-grill line in the province on the highlight of this town's 325th founding anniversary and its annual Mardiniango Festival.

Bayas, however, prevented organizers from proceeding with the 2.5-kilometer-long coto-grilling event, to which 200 sacks of charcoal would have been used.

Antonio Montoreal Jr., Bagas information officer, said the organizers had also prepared about 3,000 camotes.

Residents still had fun despite the rains by participating in bingo and chicken-catching contests.

Radar stations

In Tuba, Benguet, Science and Technology Secretary Mario Montejo inspected a radar facility at Mount Tonos which the government planned to include in its new weather tracking network.

Montejo said the Department of Science and Technology would put up 10 other radar stations in areas like Tagaytay, Subic and western Visayas. He said the plan might take five to six years to implement.

About 300 weather sensors will also be installed in critical areas in July and August to "give us a more accurate picture of the weather all over the country," he said.

450-km range

Weather specialists here showed him images obtained from the lone Doppler radar facility operating in northern Luzon.

With a range of 450 km, the radar can detect the amount of rainfall and wind speed from Baguio to the Ilocos region.

"The radars have limited range. We we will put up more so that we can see typhoons from every direction," Montejo said. Hillsmar Vargas Jr. and Elmer Kristian Dacayan, Inquirer Northern Luzon

'Chedeng' is gone; so is summer

From page A1

The wet season will last until September, he said.

Returning home last night from an overnight trip to Thailand, President Aquino said the government's preparations for a major typhoon onslaught were not really put to the test but viewed hopefully that the casualties would be limited.

"I hope there will be no more (casualties)," the President said.

Reyes said that with Chedeng moving out of the Philippine area of responsibility, the southwest monsoon would prevail and dump rains over Metro Manila, Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao over the weekend.

He said Pagasa expected more typhoons to enter the Philippine area this year compared to last year.

8-12 cyclones

For the whole of this year, Pagasa expects 14 to 23 tropical cyclones to enter Philippine territory, compared to 11 last year.

The built might come during the next four months, said Fernando Cada, a weather specialist in the climatology division.

Based on forecast models, 8 to 12 cyclones are predicted to enter the country during the June-September period, Cada said.

"They are expected to be strong cyclones," Cada said.

Dourisse Yumul Jr., undersecretary at the Department of Science and Technology said the country should prepare for strong typhoons. Typhoons as strong as Chedeng will be more frequent, he said.

Southwest monsoon

Pagasa officials said the effects of the southwest monsoon were stronger this year because Chedeng pulled the monsoon inland and strengthened it.

Cada said the monsoon usually only bothered Luzon this time of the year but because of Chedeng, "it reached as far as Visayas and Mindanao and it is stronger."

Chedeng also brought down normal rainfall in the last few days, leading Pagasa to declare that summer had ended.

At least half of the 10 rainfall stations in Luzon and the Visayas must have a total of at least 25 millimeters of rainfall every day for five consecutive days before Pagasa announces the arrival of the rainy season.

Chedeng produced enough rains in the last five days to fill six of the 10 rainfall gauges.

Low pressure area

Pagasa yesterday sighted a low pressure area in the South China Sea, off the coast of western Palawan. This could bring heavy rains over the Mindoro provinces in the next few days, Pagasa officials said.

Cada said the typhoon season is expected to be "strong" this year as the temperature of the Pacific Ocean remains normal after the La Niña weather phenomenon.

"There are usually more and stronger cyclones during this period," he said.

Still, although the La Niña is receding, its effects would still be felt in the country for months to come, officials said.

Chedeng gains strength

Chedeng yesterday continued to intensify as it moved away from the Philippines.

As of 4 p.m., it was spotted 360 kilometers east of Basco, Batanes, packing maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometers per hour and gusting at 230 kph. It was forecast to move northward at 19 kph.

At the typhoon's outer band touched parts of northern Luzon, Pagasa raised public storm Signal No. 2 over Batanes. Residents there should expect winds of 101-185 kph in the next 18 hours, Pagasa said in its advisories as of noon.

Storm Signal No. 1 was raised over the Babuyan Islands, while Aurora, Cagayan, and Isabela were under Signal No. 1.

Pagasa said Chedeng could exit the Philippines on Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

2 drowned

At least two persons were confirmed dead from drowning in the Ilocos region, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Jaime Tarillos, 50, left his home in Virginia, Calasiao, on May 24. He was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. His body was found at sea the following morning.

Emmanuel Macaro, 37, drowned after falling from a boat on his way back home to Sta. Ventura, Camantiles Norte. He had left the evacuation center to get some clothes.

Thousands evacuate

Despite failing to meet Mr. Aquino's "zero casualty" order, NDRRMC executive director Benito Ramos said he was still satisfied with the performance of disaster response units.

"We hope they would understand us. We have done our best in coordinate the efforts," he said, adding the incidents were beyond their control. "We learned a lot from this experience. We will coordinate more with state agencies."

As of May 27 noon, the NDRRMC reported that 166,961 people, or 47,314 families, were affected by the typhoon in 272 barangays in the regions of Ilocos, Cordillera Peninsula, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Northern Mindanao and Zamboanga Peninsula.

Authorities said 262,379 people, or 53,840 families, sought refuge in evacuation centers.

Hundreds of passengers were stranded at airports after nine flights to and from different destinations in Luzon and the Visayas were canceled, airport authorities said.

They included seven Cebu Pacific flights to or from Dagupan, Catarman, Isabela and Tuguegarao. A Philippine Airlines flight from Manila to Dagupan and back were also canceled. With a report from Dino G. Santos

Flag flap on Palace website

From page A1

Such a display of the flag amid tensions that the Philippines is at war.

Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Herminio Coloma yesterday took responsibility for the mistake that he said failed only "minutes."

He said the website handler realized the mistake almost immediately after he posted it, removed the flag "momentarily," and immediately reposted it.

"It was an honest mistake... There was no willful intent [to put the government in a bad light]," Coloma said.

He said the website handler had already apologized.

However, Coloma said he was taking the blame for the error.

"I'll (asking for) another chance, I promise you," Coloma told reporters. He said he was accepting responsibility "because I don't want the employee to be ill-fated his mistake."

Coloma said those in charge of the President's website are adopting "tighter editing measures" to prevent similar mistakes in the future.

The website error happened almost on the eve of the two-week celebration of the Philippine Flag Day in the run-up to Independence Day on June 12.

The public is encouraged to display the national tri-color from May 28 to June 12.

Malacañang suffered another flag-related gaffe early on in the Aquino administration in September 2010, during a meeting between US and Association of Southeast Asian Nations leaders at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. The Philippine flag was displayed alongside those of other Asean member-countries, with the red field on top.

A photograph of the President with US President Barack Obama during the meeting was marred by the sight of the Philippine flag wrongly displayed behind Mr. Aquino.

The US Embassy in Manila apologized for the mistake, which the government readily accepted.

The website error also happened after President Aquino himself lamented that the main weakness of his administration was "messaging," in an obvious reference to the efforts of his communications team.

Mr. Aquino's communications group is led by three Cabinet-rank secretaries—presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, Communications Development Secretary Ricky Carandang and Coloma.

P315-M lotto pot will still be tax-free

From page B1

to 5 percent.

He said the media reports about raising 6/58 winnings may have been misheard with the comments he made about the Filipino-American bubelgum who won the P721-million jackpot last year, and who was then levied a P260-million tax by the BIR National Revenue Service. The bubblegum consortium bet winnings into dollars and paid the tax to the BIR.

Still no winner

Jimeo said that following the incident of the bubblegum winner, talk about taxing foreigners who win the lotto while here on a visit came up in informal conversations among PCSO officials.

Meanwhile, after 41 draws and still no winner, the jackpot prize of the 6/55 Grand Lotto draw is expected to reach P511.5 million today after no one bet the winning combination of 12-19-20-31-42-52 in last Wednesday's draw.

The pot money was created at P297,891,111.60 with no winner for 30 draws, who just missed winning the jackpot by one number, were rewarded with P138,600 each.

The highest prize set record of P761 million was won in Nov. 29, 2008 by the Pera York-based bubblegum who bought the winning ticket while on vacation in Olongapo City.

The next biggest lotto jackpot was P597 million for the Super Lotto 6/49 draw on Feb. 21, 2009 where two winners shared the prize. A a 61 year-old worker from Bonifacio, Quezon City, won the third biggest jackpot worth P249 million in the Super Lotto draw in August 2009.

There is a one in a 29 million chance of picking the winning combination in the Grand Lotto but the ticket sales rise along with the horses' excitement once the jackpot prize breaches the P100-million mark, said PCSO general manager Jose Rodolfo Jimeo Bajo.

Draws are slated every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

"The prize will continue to be conveniently tax-free," said Bajo.

DTI sees hike in school supply prices

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry (DTI) expects prices of school supplies to increase as the opening of school draws near, according to Trade Secretary Gregory L. Domingo.

In anticipating such an increase, the DTI will further intensify its market monitoring operations to ensure adequate supply and stable prices, Domingo said in a statement.

As of this week, however, prices of school supplies remained stable in Ortigas, school supplies were even priced lower than the suggested retail price, based on the results of a recent monitoring by DTI.

Representatives from the Department of Education and the local government of Manila also joined the DTI in the inspection not only of the prices, but also of the supply of school supplies in the Divisoria markets—which is known to be the bargain center in Metro Manila.

The joint monitoring activity was aimed at preventing unreasonable price increases and the distribution of unsafe school items even with the increasing demand at this time of the year.

Aside from the prices, the DTI also inspected the quality and proper labeling of school supplies.

Under the Consumer Act of the Philippines or Republic Act 7394, manufacturers and distributors are required to comply with the minimum labeling requirements.

There's no stopping Tingting

From page A1

said a Christian who has the heart for Muslims" in the ARMM elections.

Cojuangco said the people of ARMM must be allowed to exercise their right to vote for change in democracy.

"No one can pocket for democracy... so why [is he pocketing] for a postponement when there's no war or calamity or any other serious reason?" said Cojuangco, wife of former flag and currently Philippine Olympic Committee chief Jose Cojuangco.

Mr. Aquino has proposed the rescheduling of the ARMM elections so they would be synchronized with the midterm elections in 2013. He said that would minimize the impact of "compound votes" which distort the notion of getting a mandate from the people."

The postponement bill has already been approved in the House of Representatives but the Senate has yet to submit a committee report on the matter.

Advice to Mayway

Cojuangco also pointed out that the Constitution does not give a president the right to appoint anyone in a holdover capacity in ARMM.

She said that before filing her certificate of candidacy she told Her President she would be satisfied by the holding of ARMM elections in scheduled. She also advised him against working for the polls' postponement, she said.

"I was saying, 'Please preserve the seat, your backbench others [are] saying, 'Sad for them to listen to those promoting for a no-election," she said.

Often described as a philanthropist and a socialite, the former Tarlac governor also defended herself against advisory who have questioned her capability to hold an important government post in a Muslim-dominated region.

Cojuangco said she had been maintaining a residence in Tawi-Tawi and in Maguindanao since 1986. She also researched her voter registration records from Tarlac to Maguindanao two months ago.

"I am proud of being a Catholic but I also have a heart for the Muslims," she said, adding that her more than two decades of conducting research on Mindanao's history and the tribal communities of ARMM, among others, made her fit to do the job.

Invitations to weddings

"Through them (Muslims), I've been able to finish my master's degree, two in fact, and a doctorate in criminology so I come very equipped for the job in terms of my schooling [and] that will be applicable, especially regarding public safety and national security," she said.

She added she wanted to be the person in bridge the "gross divide" among Christians, Muslims and the Lumad in the region.

Pimentel said having a non-Muslim like Cojuangco in ARMM "is ideal because while the ARMM has a predominantly Muslim population, the region also has non-Muslim residents like ethnic Filipinos, Kapatirans and Christians."

A Palasyan statement also said Cojuangco had moved Muslims through her family operation program, by giving them job opportunities and by fulfilling "numerous invitations" to godmother to weddings.

'There's still time'

Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., chair of the Senate's local government committee, yesterday said he had assured Senate leaders and Malacañang that he would submit early next week his committee's report on the administration bill seeking deferment of the polls.

"I have informed my colleagues of the schedule of the committee so as to give them enough time following procedure, to ensure that a vote takes place before adjournment," he said.

Congress adjourns next the on June 6.

"We promised me and (Senate President Juan Ponce) Enrile that he would do his best to come out with the committee report on Tuesday after... Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said in an interview.

Final hearing

Mr. Aquino has certified this bill as urgent.

The local government committee has set a final hearing on the bill for Tuesday morning, leaving only four session days for senators to debate and vote on it before adjournment.

The contents of the committee report is another matter the senators will have to grapple with.

Marcos has hinted his committee report will be adverse to the original bill, a situation that would seem to inform to the senators.

"That would complicate matters," Sotto said.

Even so, under the Senate Rules, five senators could intervene it by moving for its inclusion in the calendar for ordinary business, Sotto said.

If that happens, the committee report could be debated, amended or voted upon even in just one session day, he said.

AGGRIEVED: 'Nadia' Pimentel (l), president of PDP-Laban, whispers something to Tingting Cojuangco during yesterday's press conference inside Ang Ilaw ng Kalayaan in Quezon City. | PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Cabinet shakeup: Paje, Robredo to keep posts

From page A1

portfolios. He said Aroots could help his administration better by coordinating ecological and environmental concerns.

"(Robredo) and Paje will be reporting to me directly. But will forward their papers to the Commission on Appointments," Mr. Aquino said.

Mr. Roxas has disclosed that he is not talking with the other Cabinet members, "one of whom might be shuffled in terms of his responsibilities."

The President also said as much as a briefing for night or his aspect following his arrival in Manila.

He said certain issues were overlooking the official "support" and that if these were not resolved, he might give the official "until his assignment."

"I still have to talk to people involved. There's one in particular in mind. I'll give him an assessment of how I think he has been performing," Mr. Aquino told reporters in Manila.

"Obviously, there are certain issues that are running. If there is no clear-cut plan as to how to change that situation then I will be giving him another assignment," he said.

Mr. Aquino wouldn't say who the officials are but said the official was wrong those that were at the airport in Manila during the President's last night.

"I am not at liberty at this time to tell you the name. But hope, it's good that he was with me here. I will have to talk to him first before he hears it from you," Mr. Aquino said during last night.

Among the officials at the airport were Foreign Secretary Alberto Del Rosario, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo, Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga, Government Procurement Policy Board Executive Director Rafael Consing Jr., Mayor Manolo Bondoc and Bamboo Clique Francis Tolentino, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, and Communications Secretary Ricardo Saludo.

Earlier yesterday, Paje pledged "straight and true service" after hearing news that he was to become a permanent member of the Cabinet.

Robredo, for his part, said he was "grateful" although he had yet to be officially informed. He added that he would "continue what we have started."

Functions of Roxas...

The President also held sorties in Bangkok that Malacañang says close in coming up with a clear "delineation" of the functions of his ministry members. Roxas, who lost the vice presidential race in the 2010 elections to Jejomar Binay.

"We are still talking, but we are almost finished with the delineation of responsibilities," he said.

Roxas is to soon retire as the President's chief of staff. But he admitted that the former senator had already been helping him without being formally appointed.

Mr. Aquino said Roxas might be assigned to supervise certain political concerns. Functions of the Presidential Management Staff, and "other assignments that need special attention."

Roxas also met with Australian Secretary Peggilee Ochoa had already met but that there still had to be the responsibilities of their respective offices.

...And Aroots

As for Aroots, Mr. Aquino said he had yet to determine the official title of Ilo former Bohlchon representative.

"But it's a Cabinet rank ... with a new title specifically created for him. He will help (still) provide end-to-end solutions," Mr. Aquino said. "I would help me have a better, sharper focus because I'll be able to (talk) (other issues) in a more in-depth manner."

The President said the new economic portfolio might refer to a "distinction" for Aroots.

"If I appoint him secretary, assistant secretary, there is a good confidence that it could result in political conflict that might distract him from doing his job," Mr. Aquino said.

He said Aroots could help the government ensure the other implementations of the Clean Air Act and check if the Land Transportation Office was carrying out its mandate to subject all vehicles to smoke-emission testing.

"In that way, I can entrust to other members with stakeholders and have a coherent implementation of policies on environmental concerns," he said.

'Casual' employees

In his interview yesterday, Paje said he was "grateful for the President's confidence."

"I assure the President of my strength and loyal service," he said, adding that his heading the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources in an "ailing" capacity did not affect his work.

"I did not consider it as part of my performance. I worked thinking I was a 'casual' employee. No one is a permanent member of the Cabinet," said Paje, a former undersecretary at the DENR.

Paje's political ties was uncertain until yesterday, with reports swirling that Aroots was to take the post.

Aroots himself had said that he was being considered by Mr. Aquino to head the DILG, and had vowed to "clean up" the department.

In a statement issued on May 11, Aroots pledged to stamp out corruption, protect the environment and encourage the growth of the mining industry.

He also said he was a critic of a recent campaign to block his appointment as environment secretary.

Making a difference

In some messages, some years, days/details embraced the news of his promotion appointment.

"Every day we need the vote of confidence of the President and the people he serves," said Robredo, while in a locally-awarded mayor of Naga City before he was appointed interior secretary.

"I'll still try my best to continue to earn it. That's how I can make a difference in this unique world," he added.

In a statement issued by Harvey Keh, the Kuya Banks' Movement commended by Robredo thanked Mr. Aquino for his decision.

"This is a clear sign that Pnoy has fully assumed the complete trust and support of the President due to his exemplary performance at the Department of Interior and Local Government," Keh said, adding:

"Robredo has spearheaded efforts to promote transparency and accountability in the local government units and (the) agencies under his supervision, which is in line with the administration's thrust to weed out corruption."

"We believe that Robredo will continue to be one of the most hardworking Cabinet members who will always place the interest of the general public above his own," With reports from Jennifer L. Abiero and TJ Tiu

PAJE

ROBREDO

ACOSTA

Usec Rico Puno back in harness

By TJ Tiu

INTERIOR Undersecretary Rico Puno has returned to his duties after staying out of the public eye for months in the wake of controversies, notably the August 2010 hostage crisis and his alleged links to "jueteng" operations.

Puno, a longtime friend of President Aquino, reported back to work on Tuesday after a 10-day private visit to Australia, where he visited family members. In January he accepted an appointment to New York City for a 14-day vacation.

In between those trips, little had been heard from the undersecretary for junior and cadet. Barring speculation on his whereabouts.

Puno's "disappearance" from public view early this year despite security problems that hit Metro Manila in the first quarter, including gruesome cocktail-related murders and a bus bombing in Makati City that killed five persons and injured 13 others.

Reached by phone yesterday in Turkey, where he was attending a security-related event, Puno laughed off inquiries about his supposed disappearance, saying he had been quietly doing his job all this time.

"I've always been in the department, working quietly on matters that need not be announced to the media," he told the Inquirer. He said his work involved a lot of intelligence-gathering, which could explain his low profile.

He promised to make himself more available to the media, especially on security and peace concerns.

VIP probe

Rolando Bagas, public affairs officer in charge at the Department of Interior and Local Government, earlier confirmed that Puno was back.

"I saw him in his office last Wednesday. I think he's back," Bagas said of Puno.

But it was Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo who indicated Puno's appearance return to public service.

Robredo said he had assigned Puno to investigate the purported VIP treatment of prominent inmates of the high-security jail at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City (See story on Page A2).

But Robredo did not respond to inquiries later sent by text on Puno's supposed absence.

Crisis after crisis

Puno—who, Mr. Aquino said, was assigned to handle police matters—found himself in the eye of a storm last August following the hostage-taking crisis that resulted in the deaths of eight Hong Kong tourists and the gunman. Robredo, Manolo, in a televised police officer.

Along with Robredo, Puno was widely criticized for the Manila police's mishandling of the crisis. But Malacañang quickly admonished the trio of Robredo wrote a warning that ear Mendoza never could mess the crisis.

Then in September 2010, Puno was named one of the two "talibanic recipients" of payoffs from jueteng operators, allegedly pulling in P8 million a month, according to a list by whistleblower Rosario Dean Cruz submitted to the three Senate committees jointly investigating the illegal numbers game.

Puno denied the charge, saying nothing operation fund only used his family and friends as canvassers to talk to him about continuing operations from northern Luzon to Southern Tagalog.

He refused to name the canvassers.

PUNO

Ampatuan jailer relieved

From page A1

least 37 persons, including over 30 media members, were enjoying special treatment at the jail.

Mangudadatu showed reporters photos showing Ampatuan Jr. outside his cell. Some of the photos were published in the business yesterday.

Robredo said the investigation—to be led by Interior Undersecretary Rico Puno—would involve verifying the pictures and videos presented by Mangudadatu, as well as the dates these were taken.

"If the allegations are true, immediate disciplinary action will be imposed [before] finding the] replacement of personnel at [the jail]," Robredo told the reporters. "It's important not only to have fairness in our treatment of prisoners[, but also the perception of fairness."

He said he would order more surprise inspections of the jail to ensure no VIP treatment of detained inmates.

Dad said that Senior Insp. Edgar Cuenca had been assigned to replace Valdepeñas, and that replacements for the other officers had been called in from the Metro Manila District Jail and other nearby jail facilities.

Chance to explain

Robredo said Valdepeñas, who assumed office only on April 7, would be given a chance to explain during the inquiry.

He said that barring been newly assigned as the jail, Valdepeñas might not have been the one to charge at the time the pictures were taken.

Robredo said he planned to invite Mangudadatu and private prosecutor Harry Roque to a meeting on Monday to ask them to present evidence of wrongdoing on the part of the jailers.

Robredo later said Mangudadatu admitted to him last night that the pictures were taken last year.

He said Mangudadatu told him that he could not produce photos this year supposedly showing VIP treatment for the Ampatuans and other high profile inmates at Camp Bagong Diwa.

Robredo called the lawyer last night to make the clarification after his conversation with Mangudadatu. He said the governor did not say when exactly the pictures were taken and by whom, although Robredo said he gained it was in August or later.

He said the lawyer in security for the VIP inmates had been addressed since those photos were taken.

Asked what prompted Mangudadatu to present the photos now, instead of then, Robredo said he surmised it was out of anger when the jail authorities refused to allow a surprise inspection of Ampatuan's cell on Thursday.

Mangudadatu's wife, sisters and other kin were among those killed in the massacre believed to have been the worst incidence of election-related violence in the country.

The governor was angered on Thursday by Valdepeñas' refusal to permit a group including himself, prosecutors, and relatives of the other massacre victims to inspect the detention cells of Ampatuan Sr., his three sons and other executives.

"If you have the wrong view, it is no law," he had complained to reporters before showing them the photos.

In a phone interview, Puno said the general public might not be aware that the inmates at the Quezon City Jail Annex in Camp Bagong Diwa also had rights, and that the detainees' privileges were not the same as people already convicted of crimes.

Puno said he had spoken with Mangudadatu concerning the latter's allegations of special treatment.

"We have to find a way to balance the rights [of the accused and of the complainants]," Puno said.

Presumed innocent

Dad, whom Robredo described as a "straight" fellow, said that the inspection and other influential inmates were not being given favored treatment, and that the BJMP policy was geared toward protecting the welfare of all prisoners.

He said some of the inmates detained at the BJMP facilities had been convicted and should be accorded the presumption of innocence.

Dad said BJMP inmates should be supplied their basic needs such as food and drinks, and allowed to observe their religious beliefs and even some form of entertainment such as watching TV.

He mentioned coloring and planned livelihood programs for the inmates.

"There are people who are naïve on the side of the inmates, but they don't realize that there's our mandate at the BJMP," Dad said.

He said there were about 600 BJMP facilities nationwide but fewer than 18,000 jail personnel.

'Heads should roll'

In Bangkok, President Aquino said officials should be held to account if found to have extended special treatment to VIP prisoners.

"[I]f that indeed happened, then heads should roll," the President said when asked to comment on the photos of Ampatuan Jr. presented by Mangudadatu.

"There should be no VIP treatment [in] any prisoner," he said.

Mr. Aquino spoke with reporters after delivering a speech before members of the 6th Infantry Division in Bangkok. He declined to comment further on the issue, saying he had yet to see Mangudadatu's photos and video.

The President, who concluded his two-day state visit to Thailand by attending a gathering of overseas Filipino workers, said he was expecting Robredo to submit an initial report on the matter.

Of Robredo's decision to order the administrative relief of Valdepeñas, the President said: "I'm sure if necessary Robredo did that, he was convinced of the evidence shown. I'm sure he will report to me when I get home."

Mr. Aquino also expressed concern about Mangudadatu's allegations, saying he was closely monitoring the Maguindanao massacre trial.

He said this was not the first time that he had been told of the alleged special treatment enjoyed by the Ampatuans.

According to the President, Robredo informed him of a surprise inspection of the Quezon City Jail Annex.

"What I know is that he received such a report for at least three or four instances. He went there not less than twice on a surprise thing but he (the alleged special treatment)," Mr. Aquino said.

High-risk prisoners

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said she would speak with Robredo about reports that despite their being classified as "high-risk" inmates, the Ampatuans were being allowed four out of three detention building.

"We are very much concerned about these reports. We have been hearing about them, especially from the families of the massacre victims. They have been telling us that there is VIP treatment," De Lima said.

Like the President, she recalled that Robredo had inspected the jail in Camp Bagong Diwa because of such reports.

De Lima also said she had offered the victims' families assistance from the Department of Justice's prosecution panel should they wish to file new pleadings against the jailers.

Malacañang said the President was aware of the issues confronting the prisoners and had ordered not only the interior and justice departments but also his team of economic managers to look into the matter, as per existing law.

"The pictures and video put forward by Governor Mangudadatu in evidence are being verified to determine if the Ampatuans are indeed being given special privileges," Mr. Aquino's spokesperson Ed Lacierda said in a statement.

If the claim is proven true, there will be "immediate disciplinary action and the replacement of personnel [at the jail]," he said.

Lacierda also said the President recognized the rights of the persons and acknowledged that steps needed to be taken, "especially as regards the visits of guests to prisoners, and assignment due to lack of facilities."

With reports from Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora

Arraignment of Ampatuan Sr. set June 1

JUDGE Jocelyn Solis Reyes of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 221A has set the arraignment of Andal Ampatuan Sr. on June 1.

In an order issued late yesterday afternoon, the judge said Ampatuan Sr. and another co-accused, Nicomedes Tolentino aka Mohamad Tacumacong, will be indicted for the murder of 57 people, including at least 36 media workers, in Maguindanao on Nov. 23, 2009.

The arraignment will be held at the courthouse in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City where the 60 or so arrested for the multiple murders are detained.

Judge Reyes pointed out that although Ampatuan Sr. had opposed the prosecution's motion to arraign all 196 accused, he eventually asked the court to arraign him.

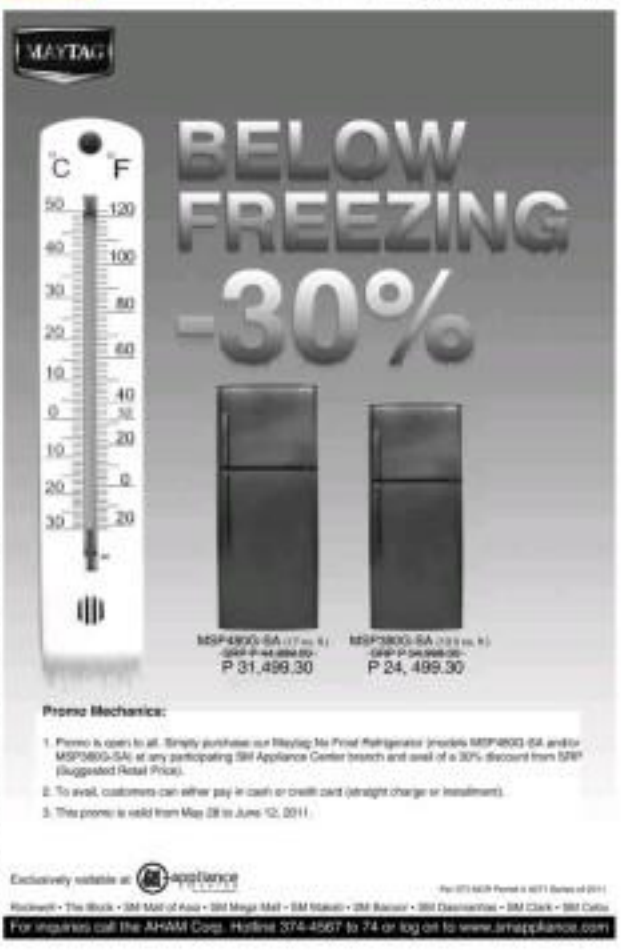
"The court is of the view that his opposition to the motion to arraign has been rendered moot and academic," she said in her order.

Tolentino had also asked the court to set his arraignment for the charges.

However, the arraignment of the other members of the Ampatuan clan and his allies accused were ordered "held in abeyance."

Reyes said the court had yet to rule on the opposition of the 21 accused to the prosecution's appeal to have all the accused arraigned.

Andal Ampatuan Jr. leads the 196 accused in the landmark multiple murder case. —Jeffer M. Antville



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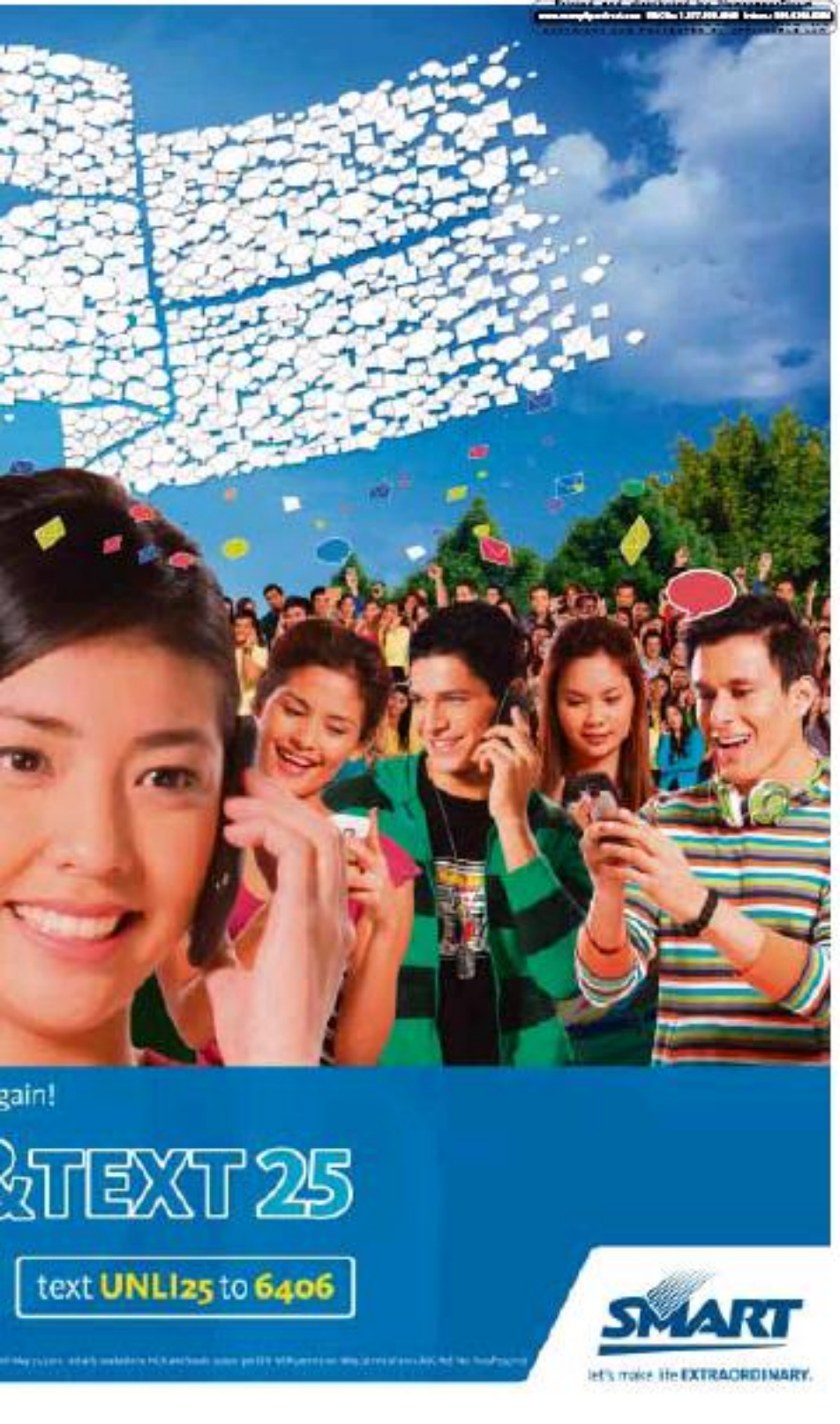
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Large-scale plunder

EDITORIAL

DO NUMBERS don't do the crime justice. The reef complex off the coast of Carabao reportedly destroyed by poachers and stripped of coral, now useless and other marine life cover an area about 7,000 hectares in size. Unless one is a geologist or surveyor, or quick with mental calculations, that figure doesn't sink in fast. Put into comprehensible terms, however, the enormity of the crime and the vastness of the crime scene, as it were, acquire contours and dimensions we can, at last, wrap our brains around. The so-called "rape of the ocean" destroyed coral reefs across an area roughly twice the size of the City of Manila, said senior marine biologist Ludivina Labe of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The reason for that epic size? The black corals that were harvested, said Labe, "are not lush or bushy. They're found as reef shapes. One piece is equal to one colony," and only two or three colonies of black corals are found in one hectare of sea bed. Hence, the still unnamed poachers whose seized contraband led to the discovery of the reef destruction had to travel vast distances of sea bed, wreaking incalculable devastation in their wake, just to gather the 25,140 black coral pieces that were then trussed up, hidden in two container vans and declared as a shipment of rubber, before the smuggling attempt was foiled.

The seized goods, presumably destined for sale abroad to collectors of exotic marine specimens, had an estimated market value of at least P20 million, said Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez. That's a big enough windfall to lure unscrupulous folk with profit in their minds to break the country's laws against the plunder of rare and endangered marine life in its waters.

As it turns out, it's not only the promise of vast sums of money that's driving the shadowy international syndicates behind these illegal activities. They are also being helped, ironically, by the very law that seeks to protect the country's marine resources more properly, by the lack of teeth of that law. As the militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya pointed out, the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 imposes the lightest of fines and/or jail time for violators, which means poachers with enough money, influence or political clout behind them can easily run rings around the country's judicial system. "While the law bans the gathering and selling of corals, the punishment of violators is very light, with imprisonment of six months to two years and a fine of P2,000 to P20,000," said Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap.

Contrast those amounts—P2,000 to P20,000—with the estimated value of the coral contraband about to be smuggled out: P20 million. Obviously, the relatively outdated fisheries code needs to have its penal provisions strengthened up if the government is to ever begin waging a decent fight against renewed violations preying on the country's last remaining patches of pristine marine environment.

That is more so because rebuilding the corals' ecosystem takes a long time. "It took 25 years or even more for those corals to grow... They only grow one centimeter a month," said Labe. And some of the other animals harvested with the corals were much older—a 40-inch Hawksbill turtle for instance, that was estimated to be 80 to 100 years old. When found, that turtle had become a dead, stuffed ornament. Who in his right mind would prefer to have such a rare, magnificent specimen hanging lifeless in one's study, gathering dust and stuffed with straw?

But, clearly, there are people who would pay a fortune for it. And here, with this botched smuggling attempt having lost the shocking pillage of the country's oceans, the government must focus the heat at first, on the suppliers, consigners and enablers. Pamalakaya's demand sounds just right: the Bureau of Customs and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources must do all they can to identify and bring charges against those responsible for the reef destruction off the South Carabao coast.

Such a brazen and wide-ranging flouting of the law could not have happened without the collusion of people up and down the bureaucratic chain. Who booked the boats that went out to sea? Who paid the locals that undertook the harvesting? Whose warehouse kept the goods and packaged them for shipment? Who in the government regulatory agencies averted their eyes or prepared the paperwork while all this was going on?

If it takes those corals 25 long years to grow back, make sure their human scourges spend at least as much time in jail.

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Seven 'Thou shall nots'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE 10 present Local Development Fund (LDF) is the "most abused" budget item today. Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo told lawmakers at a Cebu conference.

LDFs are spent by 79 provinces. (The Supreme Court, however, reverted itself on Cotabato and Davao del Norte, Inc. to make that 80.) This vast fund is also vital for 122 cities, including the 16 areas on release cupboard, ambiance, the Court flipped, and then flopped. A reconsideration motion is pending. Add to that some 1,512 towns.

This sum of nearly P1 trillion guarantees funds the "full disclosure" criterion on tax spending. This features the General Appropriations Act of 2011 and the Local Government Code. Both require "full disclosure to ensure transparency and accountability." Bolivian dictators, take note.

This Magnificent antebellum statute ensures some of these. "Even one [LGU] named after [Gov't] corrupted Ferdinand Marcos' School Code (s. 11a to the Interim) was president of the League of Municipalities. The league will find the Supreme Court's circular [01-11 '11] before this Supreme Court."

Behind-the-Doc. 7 memo that serves "Thou shall nots" in shortening LDF Rebel Cow Edgar Doctor, (con, Baja a mapere' mentions that stocks closed Dec. 30 at 1,379.99.

What is the LDF? How did this come into some shape? And what is its track record?

"Thou shall not usurp power," Aurora Lawyer Pimentel once announced. Then Manila Jacob Ilan Lim's Executive Order No. 392 (1990) on Environment Code's core is restrictions. Subregions from 111 cities now, including the Philippines, adopted on another plan that proposed a "60-30 Part." Low elements agreed to entrust 30 percent of total revenues to a "Provincial Development Council" to devise the needs of the most deprived: nutrition, health care, medicine, potable water, sanitation, primary schooling, etc.

Human development reforms grinding gears. In the Philippines, for example, "Lurking disease and death rates makes human development problem. Fifteen human needs when more pre-school children in the Philippines as premature. The same needful powers persisted into the next year. A continuous outing.

Thou shall not underwrite "administrative expenses such as task gifts, bonuses, food, allowances, medical assistance, uniforms, supplies, meetings, communication, water and light, personnel products, and the like." Robredo's memo tells LGUs.

Fifth class: voter Abogonnon in Cebu signaled P540,000 for a live concert and a dance-breakout, the CDA said, Barbas voter granted P60,000 to each desperate beneficiary, below, Bravo) away P1.05 million to LDF assistance for farm equipment.

Combines City appropriated P55 million in its LDF for three development projects. It gave P44.2 million mostly on existing jobs, not meeting basic human needs.

"Evaluation continued by the finds Town Lyster disclosed that majority of programs, implemented by the city government under the 27 projects [Pardo] consist of the provision of basic social services," the COA said. Some 400 workers were assigned detailed to the 27 offices of the city. That claimed up P36.2 million.

Auditors in sibling-rival are too. Balerdo says. "Traveling expenses, whether elements of foreign or local travel, are not allowed."

Neither may officials dip into the fund for "registration fees in training, seminars, conferences or conventions."

Magdalena officials (Cebu) banned Pick Mallorca from the LDF. Two trips to the Palawan's Kamotesbanan festival. Lapu-Lapu City's Association of Barangay Councils "misused" P500,000 on a Christmas party and gifts over two years and P75k,500 on honoraria for 30 barangay captains.

A new Disaster Challenge Fund will provide P500 million to 144 LGUs that provide counterparts from 10% for essential projects. There, range from rural health units and water and sanitation to post-harvest facilities.

Robredo's memo stubbornly insist on having their LDF pork barrels.

"There are all honest men," the old adage says. "But who can I see finding hay?"

Who wants Acosta away from DENR?

GET REAL

Walter Calloway Mercado

I SEE that a full page was taken out recently in a newspaper (not the Inquirer), lobbying against the appointment of former Sen. Santanina Acosta as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). As was widely rumored to be in a dead heat for just over the one-star list against the appointments of losing election candidates is placed. And rightly so, for his qualifications and experience put him head and shoulders above everybody else.

The ad was in the form of an "Open Letter to President Aquino," and essentially focused on four cases brought against Acosta and his sender by the Office of the Ombudsman, and was widely rumored to be in a dead heat for just over the one-star list against the appointments of losing election candidates is placed. And rightly so, for his qualifications and experience put him head and shoulders above everybody else.

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If there's any truth to the charges against him, they are (grosso?), why then were those brought up in the first place, and why were those given the country by the Ombudsman? Then there's many by the President and by the country, have not been done. Acosta, with such name ("bahid dungis") on his honor and integrity has no place in the "dens of greed," etc., etc.

Such concern. Such patriotism. One would think that they should be proud and exalted as publicly be subjected to such an exposé of wrongdoing since they are such dens on moral soundness that no Ombudsman is entitled to the heroism of the ad. All the identifications there in "Grandeur for Good Governance" [which of course is Google], only to find out that there is no such animal.

By now the question is, why should such nonsensical criteria seek to remain anonymous, especially since a full page ad, at least in the Inquirer (which boasts the largest circulation), costs more than P1,000,000 in newspaper?

And another question: Should a newspaper print such an ad, which is clearly defamatory and in the nature of a paid-for news?

Running in both sides does not exactly criticism, I called up the newspaper in question, and asked who paid for the ad. I was told that the ad was paid for by so-called "Sony"—at cash, mind you—with cell phone number 09209151221. I then called up Sony, and was denied that it was he who paid for the ad. For a merely an agent, an ad-taker for the newspaper. When asked if he could supply me the name of the person/s who gave him the (cash) money he begged for more time, and said he would return my call. Guess I'm breathless. And here is a media, mainly pushing for the Freedom of Information Act. What's more for the group should be source for the gender, don't you think?

Here is the other gutsy: is there any basis to the charges against Acosta? Is there any truth to the charges against Acosta? Is there any truth to the charges against Acosta? Is there any truth

Unemployment: bad since 2005

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Walter Haydyan

THE HEADLINE of Associated Press (AP) last Monday was "Unemployment interesting: 11.2 million Filipinos actively jobless, says SWS."

What does this new report really mean? Let us examine the word *ithinik*, an extensive new study and more often is the current situation of unemployment.

The trend of unemployment. The SWS report is promising on this: the SWS unemployment figure of 27.3 percent in March 2011 is due to encouraging improvement from 29.6 percentage in December 2010 and 31.9 percent in September 2010. From a three-quarters perspective, that's unfavorable and surely the administration and all development agents should be concerned.

But, from a perspective of the last six years, an 8 high unemployment is not unusual. The annual averages of the SWS quarterly unemployment percentages in seven years have all been in the neighborhood of 27.0 to 29.0 percent, with the exceptions of 23.0 in 2006, 26.4 in 2006, 25.3 in 2007, 26.6 in 2008, 31.0 in 2009, and 29.5 in 2010. From 2005 to 2010, unemployment rates exceeded 20 percent more than 6 times (which is record high 34.2 percent in February 2005), and not below 20 percent only four times.

SWS tracking of unemployment began in September 1983, as a by-product of its quarterly surveys on social weather. Unemployment rates in the entire 1983 survey is that unemployment had formerly been much lower, in 1983-2004, before rising to the heights of 2005-2011. This is quite clear from the bar chart on SWS's front page and on SWS's website.

Here are the averages of the earlier SWS quarterly unemployment percentages: 13.6 in 1983 (1 quarter), 21.3 in 1984, 16.3 in 1986, 9.7 in 1990, 8.7 in 1997, 8.7 in 1998, 9.6 in 1999, 10.7 in 2000, 9.9 in 2001, 8.6 in 2002, 13.8 in 2003, and 15.5 in 2004.

The fact that unemployment went into high double-digits starting 2005 clearly implies that the up-to-date economic growth turned elusive, as it politics compared to earlier years. Let many remember that the long-term perspectives of unemployment and of hunger are so similar to each other (see my April 9 column "Hunger: the most urgent problem").

Current unemployment. The March 2011 SWS survey found that, out of the projected national population of 93.1 million adults, some 58.2 million have work in present ("may trabaho sa kasalukuyan"), and 11.3 million do not have work but are looking for it. Therefore the estimated labor force is 70.2 + 11.3 = 81.5 million, i.e. this includes those who are looking for work. Dividing the number unemployed by the size of the labor force gives the 2011 unemployment rate of 27.3 percent.

Among the families of the unemployed, 19.4 percent suffer from moderate hunger, and 9.4 percent suffer from severe hunger. Among families of the employed, moderate and severe hunger are only 14.4 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively. This is consistent.

When classified by job history, the most common type of unemployed are those who had resigned from their jobs. They account for 30 of the 27 percent unemployment. Do these experience work and/or hours jobs? Were their jobs and salary acceptable? Could they not get along with supervisors and workmates? These are issues of the jobmarket and the workplace.

Almost as common are those who involuntarily lost their jobs, due to retrenchment of their engagement or project, or the split for self, or closure of their employers. They account for 9 percentage points of unemployment, and to the consequence of poor performance of their employers in general.

Finally, some are first-time job-seekers, accounting for 7 points of unemployment. Here 15 to 24 years ago, they succeeded to adulthood, and were grand jobs. They would not have been so many, if families had been more able to advance their financial position of children.

* * *

Comparison of definitions. The SWS Association of Filipinos defined the unemployed as "those (a) without work, and also (b) looking for work." This is the traditional definition, in use in Philippine statistics ever since the 1950s, if not earlier. Abandoning a consistent standard of measurement is criticized, but the data is not valid for analysing long-term trends.

The official definition of the unemployed had been the traditional one, until it was revised in April 2005 to also require (c) a declaration of availability for work within two weeks. It an up, pessimistic series. This is partly evident in the size of the unemployment rate, and also one of the official statistics.

For instance, with application of the available definition to the SWS March 2011 survey, the officially-were unemployed would become only 10.4 percent, instead of 27.3 percent. I believe have to is a unfavourable why some unchangeable people might suffer sudden downing.

Unfortunately, the revision also resulted in a discontinuity in official unemployment data, with official unemployment rates for April 2005 no longer comparable with earlier official rates based on the traditional definition. This discontinuity benefits the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

Another difference from a minor one) between the 1980 and the official statistics on unemployment is the age-coverage. Since 15 to 64 for the 1980 data versus 15+ years for the official data.

E-mail: Melvin Lemuenco of SWS for special tabulations available here.

* * *

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Bridesmaid

YOUNG BLOOD

Porsche Bautista

BOSTON, days I will be wearing a beautifully cooked, old-rose, sabrina-cut, long gown and a pair of silver shoes with three-inch heels. While my best girlfriends dress and my close cousins by tends up, I will walk down the aisle with a man I haven't met before. Nevertheless we will put on our faces a smile of happiness and excitement for the benefit of the parents and spectators, of course.

If anniversary events are rights, this will be the third time I will be doing this. And since I have been told that experience is the best teacher, I can say that I will be putting on a better performance this time around. I hope that my parents don't see me.

About a month ago, a friend broke the news claiming

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? Are worldviews contributions from the twenty-somethings and teens? — Ed.

that she was getting married. She told me she wanted me to be one of her bridesmaids. Naturally as a friend I was ecstatic and honored to her. Basically she will be running a new life—she has been of her life, I had to accept.

I had never really given any serious thought to getting married and the whole shebang that further their money. Among our high school friends, there were just the two of us who hadn't tied the knot. But soon there would just be me.

The thought of me being the lone unmarried girl in our batch bothered me somehow. It started me thinking about when I would ever walk up to every maid, during her nights and never eventually.

Don't get me wrong. I have had boyfriends. In fact the last one gave me my saddest Christmas Eve ever. We broke off just minutes before the clock struck 12, but the sudden and blunt part about our breakup was that he chose an ex-girlfriend over me. Last I heard, they are getting married in December, and I don't think I could have been more happy that he made his choice. I am hope they don't get married for Christmas Eve because I am still trying to get over her ex broken memories about Christmas.

After the not-so-happy ending of my last relationship, I told myself I should take a break from my quest of love and my career. Now, I know there is had to gather myself and put together a whole new me from my ass. More importantly, I promised to give myself ample time to enjoy being single and the perks that go with it: freedom and more freedom.

But now that everyone is getting hooked like Peter Pelham and Xian, as well as the girl friend and her mom, is getting to be a bit too much. There is had to gather myself a little while a social and bothered me, and brought me on a state of panic. I scanned my phonebook and texted my friends for possible text mates, organized an online dating site, and patiently read a lot of profiles of male attendees most of them unengaged—I until I could not do it anymore, on pain that my eyes would bleed.

Every time I read a relationship and cry over it, everybody tells me that it was not for me to keep and that someone better will just surprise me from out of nowhere and sweep me off my feet. I know there are just random words, but like chocolate on another food, it makes me feel better. But now, I would like to believe those are true. Right now, it is more comforting to believe than each things are indeed possible and there is no need for me to panic. So therefore, saying and drinking you and wondering answers by myself will still be nice to her and listening to silence.

People say I am always the bridesmaid and never the bride. I tell myself I am a beautiful bridesmaid and one day, it will be lucky—at least me, just to Prince William was lucky to have Kate.

In few days, I will walk down the aisle with a man on whom I will love for my eyes as a proud bridesmaid of my dear friend. I will walk for the last and will support her as she starts a new life. As for me, I still have a librarian character trait to tame, no one Prince William.

Porsche Bautista, 27, is currently employed with the SM Cyberbrand. She is a Political Science graduate of DP Bachelor College.

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Retrace our roots, enrich our identity

COMMENTARY

Ricardo Mic. Ibaran Nolasco and Michael Carlo C. Villas

"WE [SIC] of the child's language in education means more classroom interaction, deeper learning, freer dialogue and also a regained sense of pride among language speakers" said Jaime Bernardo University president Dr. Evelyn Ursudio.

Citing a recently completed project on "Physical, phonetic and cognitive aspects of bilingualism" Ursudio stressed the university's commitment to mother tongue education research in the "Pagpaluluwag ng Mina sa mga Pinakagaan: A Col. Inquiry on the Silent Language," held on May 16 and 17 at the Lyceum of the Philippines. The project was "accomplishing the master output" which in Pagsa-ITE either to Tagalog, also known as Leyenda-instructional, Binisaya of Iloilo/Capiz and Hiligaynon texts and Ilokuhan in Cagayan Valley.

The LPU institute tongue education research unit is the first in the Philippines to have a Tagalog, Ilokano, Ilonggo, Binisaya, Pilipino, Filipino, Ilokano and Bikolano language. Ursudio also began producing instructional materials like the Mother Kindergarten workbook in collaboration with Dr. Jesus Peccoda-Ingalo and also has been working on Mga Alay" (Rin nore May) by Alma Moreno-Sanchez.

The LPU language conference was one of two important education events held most from Manila this other one was held in Tacloban. Both activities seem to foretell that there is an increasing trend in the use of mother tongue in the classroom.

Jayne Gee Carlos Jericho "Joel" L. Perilla, representing the Vice Gov. Maximo S. Ragudos, admitted that our national understanding of the current language policy in education is "abysmal." "If you are aware of our language as rooted in the past, the less we can participate in its evolution."

At the same time, Department of Education regional director Dr. Lance B. Ito said that "the first [SIC] of mother tongue in education is the future, wherever there are students, wherever there are schools, wherever there is a mother tongue in town so that DepEd Order No. 74 will not just remain on paper."

* * *

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Japan still No. 3

BUSINESS MATTERS

Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas

Some researchers maintain that post-traumatic growth is far more common than long-term post-traumatic stress disorder

IN THE days following the major calamity that hit Japan on March 11, numerous pictures appeared in the local and international press showing Japanese citizens admiring the cherry blossoms that reputedly appear during the first weeks of April. The "hanami" was widely used in the vocabulary of Japan during the times of cherry blossom dreams.

A Japanese classmate of mine in Harvard sought me all about "hanami." He even wrote a haiku about this sign of spring that every Japanese expects and prepares during the winter. From their past record of recovering from adversities, I can fearlessly forecast that one or three years from now, Japan will be back up to her toes as the land of the rising sun and the second largest economy in Asia.

In an article in the International Herald Tribune (March 26, 2011) by Joshua Hammer reminds us of the Great Kanto Earthquake of Sept. 1, 1923. In this time, it was the world's citizens at the historic Japanese people. The "shocking" disaster of 1923 remembered it. It leveled the port cities of Yokohama and burned down 60 percent of Tokyo, home 140,000 people died, including about 350 Americans and 40,000 mostly poor Japanese who were incinerated in the infernal firestorm of the "Imperial Capital." Despite the unprecedented scale of suffering in the 1920s, the Japanese people were able to recover from this natural disaster so successfully that by the late 1930s the Japanese leaders felt confident enough to challenge the leading powers of the world in a war that ended in Hiroshima.

In the end of World War II, Japan was completely devastated, with some two million Japanese dead and a nuclear holocaust flattening the two cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. With some assistance from the United States, but depending more on its own industry, perseverance, discipline, computer quick and sheer determination of its own people, Japan became the second richest country

in the world by the 1980s, breaking down the necks of the Americans in terms of technical innovation and industrial productivity. Although the Japanese "miracle" was gradually tapered off by a rather bizarre form of a contract in political leadership and an unforgiving demographic winter, the Japanese people continued to demonstrate their admirable human resources of hard work, discipline, patriotism and frugality. It took them just two years to recover from the latter earthquake that hit the city of Kobe in 1995.

My optimism about the future prospects of Japan is bolstered by another article that appeared on the same issue of IHT. Wanda by Peter Aronoff and Taylor Baldwin Eklund, that research, called "Bounce is on Japan's side," presents evidence gathered in a research on post-traumatic stress disorder. The research showed that on examination with counselors can actually lead to highly positive changes in individuals. Trauma can dramatically increase the resiliency of the victims to subsequent adversity. Today, many Japanese survivors can feel post-traumatic growth is far more common than long-term post-traumatic stress disorder. The scars is to adapt and grow following trauma. Together with their traditional virtues of hard work, discipline and harmony, post-traumatic growth can actually benefit the Japanese society in the coming years.

Some of the benefits that may come with this post-traumatic growth may be the rise of a new breed of younger political leaders who will restore the Japanese confidence in their own capabilities to depend on foreign game strategies to help in the task of reconstruction and in caring for the rapidly aging population, and hasten appreciation for the value of children in a large family.

As regards the Philippines, I can only recommend such the heroic effort of some of the victims of the earthquake and tsunami to us to take the lives of their relatives. See the long-term survival of Japanese society, a more important change is a greater appreciation of the value of children. What the extremely low fertility rate that is the greatest hindrance to long-term economic progress. The real lesson needed is the springtime of hope family rules that can reverse the demographic winter. It is not too late for the government of younger people will lead to the countryside for the growth that Japan dearly needs. Otherwise, even the unforgiven effects of 1000 billion in money, senators cases will quickly peter out.

* * *

Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas is senior vice president of the University of Asia and the Pacific. His e-mail address is bmvillegas@up.edu.ph

THEY SAID

False allegations

"To tell, I would in my shoe I deny with the greatest possible firmness all of the allegations that have been made against me. I want to protest the accusation which I have served with horror and detention, and especially—especially—I want to declare all my strength, all my virtue and all my energy to proving my innocence."

—Philippine Marcos-Ilocos Governor Imee Marcos, denying that she is person managing director of the then-national Investment Fund in the form account, made charges in a June letter

Defenseless

"I find each time that we can suppress our capability and modernize our Armed Forces, we cannot do anything except to file protest after protest. We do not have the capability. We can only file a diplomatic protest."

—Zambales Governor Hermogenes Ebdane on the military's inability to defend any of the international territories it said to be found within the Kalayaan Island Group

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An indicator of authenticity

LETTERS

WE REFER to the May 25 column of Neal Cruz, in which he raised some questions regarding the new generation banknotes.

Let me clarify first of all that—due to the inherent nature of intaglio printing of our banknotes, a minimal "ink run-off" will be observed; otherwise, we cannot achieve the embossing of several features in the banknotes like their denominations. Unlike ordinary offset printing, intaglio printing of banknotes requires printing plates to have much deeper engraving and consequently greater ink consumption to attain the acceptable level of print security. A minimal "ink run-off" is, therefore, an inevitable consequence.

There is nothing unscientific about "ink run-off" in our notes. Due to an ideal height of the fibers in the genuine banknote paper, there is greater tactility and opportunity more "ink run-off." This is in fact one of the tests to determine whether a note is genuine or not.

I can therefore assure Cruz that when was shown to him were a total loss and "ink run-off" is a natural feature of these real notes. A monetary comparison which included that of the Hong Kong dollar, US dollar, Singapore dollar and the euro note had been previously conducted by our printers. Every note had "ink run-off." Fake notes will hardly yield any color visible when rubbed.

Secondly, I would also like to point out that there is no problem with the ink used in printing the new Philippine banknotes. The ink used in the BSP notes is the same as that used in the printing of the notes currencies worldwide which has become the virtual industry standard. Moreover, the BSP notes, like the other currencies, passed the durability test, i.e., soaking them wet and drying them off. There was no fading of the colors in the notes.

We want to assure the public that the banknotes issued by the BSP meet the high quality standards for banknote printing, considering also the same technology and the same or similar security equipment are used. In addition, our banknote paper and banknote ink are sourced only from pre-selected suppliers who have proven international track record in their respective specialization.

—CARLO C. CUISIA JUNIOR,
deputy governor,
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

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Dealing with terrorists in our communities

THE BOLD AIR reaction of Manila Police District (MPD) director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), Chief Superintendent Nicanor A. Bartolome, to the recent arrests of nine Chechens, 8/10/11 in a more confrontational way to avoid a wrong signal, but to no support for operation, as they

This is all, in the name the public, our absolute business in particular, that the Philippine National Police is not engaged in any form of which hate or affiliated criminal activities committed in the country.

I cannot agree with his remark that the two wanted Abu Sayyaf suspects, Ambrot Jakiran and Jailani Sakiran, arrested earlier by police in separate operations in Metro Manila, were merely practicing the Muslim custom of visiting relatives in the city and, therefore, should not be subject to police action.

Our justice system, in fact, defines the culpability of the suspects' relatives who provided safe haven to their wanted kin, one of whom is accused in the beheading of soldiers, while the other was involved in the infamous siege of Lamitan, Basilan.

The arrest of wanted terror suspects Jakiran and Sakiran should prompt barangays and residents of Muslim communities to be vigilant against possible infiltration of their neighborhood by Abu Sayyaf sympathizers who come to live in or "visit-off" from the base of police-military operations in the forests.

Muslim communities must open our eyes to the reality that communal terrorists can actually thrive in our midst if we lower our guard and lend ourselves more to succumb their sympathies.

Incidents like this are, in fact, among the circumstances raised by our brother Muslims who belong to the Philippine Islamic Police Community Relations Civilian Volunteers (PIPCRCIV), which held their 1st National Assembly recently.

Chairman Abdulmajid Ibrahim of the activists of the PIPCRCIVhas cut terrorists and criminal elements from the relentless peaceful Muslim communities in Metro Manila is a brave and strong willed acknowledgement of the problem.

—NICODEMUS V. CRUZ JR.,
police chief superintendent,
spokesman, Philippine National Police

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Is there still any hope of reforms at LTO?

EVEN AS President Aquino continues to ride on his campaign slogan—"kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap"—people he has chosen to run other agencies, Cabinet members, among them, seem to be doing the exact opposite. This is the reason the President is losing the trust of the people.

Our group, the Road Users Protection Advocates (RUPA), has filed graft charges against two appointees of the Department of Transportation and Communications, headed by Secretary Jose Jr. Abaya, for favoring Sandoval Corp., the sole IT provider of the Land Transportation Office (LTO), which has unconcealed itself in the LTO since the time of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. We are not to forbear for Abaya to the changes, for maintaining the decisions of his subordinates. We have reason to believe that the two officials gave undue advantage to Sandoval, thus compromising the public interest.

During the Arroyo years, when Sandoval had the monopoly of the lucrative business of operating the LTO database, no LTO chief had the courage to review Sandoval's contract with the LTO.

LTO must bid again. Terra goes as hope when the contract, before her expiration, the review of the contract. The review ended that Sandoval had not been true to the provisions of the contract. But the suspension of Terra dimmed our hopes. She is now invited for integrity being a candidate in the reform that.

It does worry us if he or the LTO rival DOTC.

Our group hope that Da Jesus' statements in support of the fight against corruption are not empty to his actions. If he really wants to fight corruption, then he would have welcomed the complaint we filed before the Office of the Ombudsman against two of his subordinates. It would be brushed off the complaint and, apparently, defended blindly, a matter machine-created by the previous administration. More importantly, in the attempt to discredit the messenger filed by RUPA, the DOTC, the Ombudsman hasten to the Senators undermined the authority and independence of the Office of the Ombudsman and the integrity of our system's justice system by making statements on the validity of the complaints and the complainants that are later proved, a manner that is solely within the province of the Ombudsman.

—ALEXIS ROMUL ZUÑIGA,
president,
Road Users Protection Advocates (RUPA),
DPOS-Philadelphia cor. Molly Philippines,
Barangay San Isidro, Makati City

Prison rape of Angelica in Dubai unbelievable

I READ with interest the May 22 editorial of Nina Jimenez David and the clarification made by the Department of Foreign Affairs' spokesperson Ed Malaya that neither DFA here in Dubai nor the "Angelica" team were the rescue of rape while she was in prison here.

As early as last month, when we first got wind of the rumor about Angelica's supposed rape while in prison, our friends both OFWs in Dubai checked, through our contacts, if there were any cases and we found out that there was absolutely no truth to it.

It is hard to imagine that the rape of female inmates can happen in a tightly Arab Emirates prison because the governments of our host country have strict rules and regulations regarding the mixing of unrelated males and females. In fact, only male guards are assigned to male inmates, and female guards to female inmates.

We were able to verify that Angelica was imprisoned in the women wing, which is a fully separate area from the male wing. Female

INQUIRER Visaras

BASE camp in Langun Cave of the Samar 2011 caving expedition in Calbiga, Samar, last April.

Passions go deep inside Calbiga Caves

By Vicente S. Libro, Calbiga, Samar

AMAZING stalactites, stalagmites and other natural formations, bats, spiders, snakes, blind fishes and crabs. What more can be discovered inside the Calbiga Caves complex in Calbiga town in Samar?

For nearly a month, some of the best European speleologists and cave divers led by Matteo Rivadossi, accompanied by local spelunker Jun Alemania Bombaje and three other Italian cavers, explored the Calbiga caves in April.

The expedition aimed to confirm in earlier theory that the municipality of Calbiga, and possibly the whole Samar Island, is crisscrossed by underground rivers. Organized by Stefano Pattarini-Scarzi, it was a return trip of cave explorers-cum-mountaineers, trapper-cum-chefs.

It had permission from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the municipality to explore the caves.

The team included geologist Guido Rossi, filmmaker Alessandro Canci and Gigi Casati, both cave divers; Pantaleo Stefano Lillo and Mengo Davide, both cave explorers, all Italians; Frenchmen Tristan Godet and Jean Paul Jeanjen, both cave explorers; Belgian Marc Vandermarliat, cave diver; Slovenian Rok Stopar, cave explorer/doctor; and Russian Nikita Nikin, cave explorer.

Rivadossi, Rossi, Jeanjen, Godet and Lillo had been to the Calbiga Caves in 2009. They discovered the 6.8-kilometer Campasto-Loch Bito-Bombol Cave, which has many branches connecting to a long and beautiful underground river.

Also in 2009, a three-member team of foreign cave divers—Americans Bruce Kunde and William Watson, and Slovenian Thomas Bolis—found the Lunodpon Cave after diving into a submerged cave passage through the Langun-Golmgoh cave system.

Cavers' destination

A favorite destination of cavers, the Calbiga Caves can be reached in one and a half hours on a foot trail from the town proper. The system covers 2,968 hectares and is said to be the largest karst in the country and one of the largest in East Asia.

It has 12 caves, including Golmgoh, Langun and Bitong Bombaje that boast of giant columns of stalactites and stalagmites, unique rock formations, underground rivers, cascades and openings.

A team of Italian speleologists, who first explored the cave system in 1987, said that Langun, the main cave, has a chamber that is 270 meters long and 300 meters wide at its largest area, which can easily fit three football fields.

Golmgoh, on the other hand, has a huge hall with beautiful stalagmite, stalactite and limestone formations, while Bitong Mahonglo has a single dry tunnel at the bottom of which lies a lush forest.

A protected area, the Calbiga Caves complex is the habitat of rare species of blind crabs and the 7-centimeter Sympson blind fish. At dusk, hundred of thousands of bats hover over the cave entrance.

The Italian cavers also noted in 1987 that the Calbiga has a "truly exceptional hydrological karst," mentioning more than 20 watercourses.

Further east, near Barangay Cambacan, to another cave system called Canyaon Cave (Devil's Cave), which was discovered and explored in 2003 by a team of French and Italian cavers. It consists of 15 galleries of distinctive features and no dimensional rivers.

Bad weather

The latest expedition targeted the Langun-Golmgoh, Campasina Loch Bito-Bombol, and the Lunodpon caves, as well as the Calbibangan and Balogo springs. But bad weather prevented it from achieving good results.

"Sadly, 40 days of rain stained the river to become murky with zero visibility. It was then impossible to check in Calbibangan," a lake fed by the Magtogod River, according to Rivadossi.

He says the final result of the trek was "the reconstruction of the underground hydrographic network from the inlet of Malapito River into the 10-km cave system [Langun-Golmgoh] to Balogo Spring."

While waiting for the weather to improve, the cavers went to other caves in Dimabao and Mahagnaon, both Samar towns.

Still, Rivadossi says the adventure had been a fulfilling struggle "to join through caves and enter into the vast world of nature's magnificent phenomena."

He explains that the team sought to see the unexplored side of the earth when no satellite or robot can ever do.

Passion, intrigue

"The cavers are not paid for their extraordinary curiosity. The intrigue on the magical possibilities and the search for new discoveries in the underground rivers (from the top in the spring) have become their passion for years," Rivadossi says.

With the exploration, he adds, it is possible to make a deep investigation about the biology, hydrology or geology of the Calbiga Caves.

Mayor Melchor Hamoto recently received word from American researchers from University of Texas that they wanted to study the complex in relation to climate change. They did not give details, however.

In studying climate change, some scientists are said to have explored caves in search underground—known as "archives" of the climate history dating back to tens of thousands years—in a particular area. The caves hold records that may give clues to climate change.

Stalagmites are formed as rainwater, mixed with calcium carbonate and other elements, percolates its way through the ground and onto the cave floor, creating in time a column of rock.

Scientists would cut open the stalagmite, ready to chemical content to determine the relative resistance of the climate at various periods in history, starting from the the oldest layers at the bottom to the present at the top.

If the American scientists push through with their plan, the Calbiga cave network may also tell what happened in the past in relation to the present.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bengcoke

Across the NATION

Marilao River rehab wasted–Greenpeace

Coal cargo ship remains moored in Bakud Reef

MARIEL, Sarangani—The cargo ship that stranded into the protected Bakud Reef off Gumba town on May 15 remained moored to it Friday, the Coast Guard said in a report.

The Malaysian tramper Jicin, contracted to remove the vessel, had decided to unload some 8,000 tons of the coal cargo to easily refloat it, the Coast Guard said.

But the attempt proved to be slow as only about 1,000 tons had so far been transferred to a barge, it said.

The MV Double Prosperity was carrying 60,000 tons of coal from Australia to India when it rammed into the reef.

Sen. Miguel Zubiri said the ship was sailing close to the coast when it hit the coral reef.

Angel Zapanta, provincial legal officer, said Jobs had been given to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to assess the damage to the reef.

Zapanta said the BFAR would also help in the search for the vessel's owner.

Sen. Loren Legarda, chairperson of the Senate committee on environment, natural resources and climate change, said she would file a resolution calling for a Senate investigation into the incident.

The 20 representatives, Zapanta said, were composed of coast and fish experts.

He said the expert crews, Tom Kulas, also hired the services of some nine experts from Singapore.

He said the seven vessels were moved to determine the damage to the reef.

He said a special board would conduct a marine inquiry to determine why the international cargo ship deviated from its sea route and rammed into the reef of coloay. —Apollo J. Zuñiga, Inquirer Mindanao

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Efforts by national agencies and the local government to rescue the Marilao River system (MRS) in Bulacan are apparently deficient because the use and discharge of hazardous chemicals and domestic wastes into the river persist, according to the environmental group, Greenpeace.

The MRS is one of eight river studies that Greenpeace presented in its 60-page report titled "Hidden Consequences," also under the spotlight are the Tullahan River in Caloocan, Cebu Pasig in Thailand and Siwa in Kuala Pasir most-river in Malaysia and Bagumbayan in the Philippines, and the towns of Sto. Mario, Marilao and Obando before it empties to the Manila Bay.

The Bocaue River merges with the river system in Marilao, according to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Highly polluted

The nonprofit environmental facility, Blacksmith Institute, labeled the MRS as one of the world's 30 dirtiest rivers in 2010, after confirming that its waters contained "high levels of pollution" from industry, coming from leather tanneries, gold refineries and dumps.

Reviewing Blacksmith's findings, the Greenpeace report claims that pollution has reached the river's groundwater, and the extent of mangroves, tree, cattle and crabs raised there have also been affected. Shellfish and freshwater fish showed evidence of metal contamination, exceeding limits for human consumption in some cases.

Greenpeace found the 10-year Water Quality Management Area program—said to be the first in the country—to be limited.

"However, while the plan covers the cleanup of the existing contamination and waste water treatment for ongoing discharges, it contains very few concrete measures to prevent future contamination by addressing the problem at source and eliminating the actual use of hazardous chemicals," the report says.

"As the plan stands at the moment, it is questionable whether it will be able to fully deliver on its goal of achieving complete restoration of the rivers of its pollution."

Campaigns

Gwendolyn Gonzales, EMB director in Central Luzon, said the agency presented and held government and several other government offices have joined efforts to conduct information campaigns, hold regular cleanup drives, enforce solid waste management and closure of illegal dumpsites and inventory of sources of heavy metals.

The program, she said, needs P16.1 billion, which remained unfunded to date. The EMB, as a government, sees some of the agency's funds in the meantime. The provincial and local governments share counterpart funds, she said.

The cleanup cost, Greenpeace said, could be minimized on the part of the Bulacan government but prohibitive for the national government.

Greenpeace said "authorities are rightly focusing on controlling the sources of pollution, yet their proposed plan will not completely eliminate the use and discharge of hazardous chemicals, such as heavy metals."

To protect the health and livelihood of the more than one million people living around it, Greenpeace urged the government to set up a proper pollutant discharge system through which the public would easily access a wide range of pollution data.

Advocates could also use the system to immediately establish a list of hazardous chemicals and create an action plan to reduce, restrict and ultimately eliminate the discharge of toxic chemicals.

Pineapple enzyme

The government hasn't given up.

In Malolos, Bulacan, a tropical fruit enzyme has been introduced to the MRS by a Japanese firm in March to help clean the river.

Hitachi Advance Co. Ltd., which is based in Hiroshima, Japan, has been leading the rehabilitation of Marilao River since December 2010.

The firm's treatment process requires enzyme extracted from the pineapple, said Hitachi Project Manager Hiroshi Nagasaki.

Estanislao Orejas, with a report from Carmelo Reyes-Bulosan, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Kalinga media slam arson try on radio station

TABUK CITY—Members of the Kalinga media have condemned the attempt to burn down the government-owned dyMB-Radyo ng Bayan in Balatoc-Kent village here on May 23.

"We take the act as a direct assault on press freedom as it is an obvious attempt to gag and silence the operation of the radio station by burning down to its cinders and by coming to staff to silence," they said.

The net "media ban because if the perpetrators felt aggrieved by something that was aired over the radio, they should have demanded and sought redress through the proper process instead of burning the facilities of the said organization," they said.

The dyMB Radyo ng Bayan is the only radio station in Kalinga. The Kalinga-Media Club urged the police to track down the culprits and bring them to justice.

"They should unmask and file the necessary charges against whoever is responsible for the crime at the quickest possible time, "the club said in a statement.

The club members said they believed this attack was aimed at radio announcer Jerome Tenbengang, who, they noted, had been "relentless in his campaign against criminality and corruption in the province."

"The timing and circumstances of the attempted arson indicate that it might be connected with the corruption of the [acting] provincial Tabuk City," they said.

Hadlie Bahyan, the station manager, said three gasoline bombs were thrown into the station's windows, but only two exploded.

Police investigators said the suspects entered through the two front doors through a window and then ignited it using a bolt with a burning cloth.

The attempted burning came more than a year after Tabuangasa was shot and wounded by three men who barged into his house in his pregnancy. Filamer Daoas Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Stop activities in village, 4 banana firms ordered

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Southern Mindanao ordered more at least four banana companies operating in Kapangan village here to cease their activities.

Emmanuel Luy, DENR regional technical director, said it was the fourth order the agency issued against Sharabanan Farms Inc., Highland Agro Venture Inc., Pulada Banana Plantation and ARCOR Corp. due to their failure to secure environmental compliance certificates (ECC).

Kapangan is part of the Mapic-protected area but the DENR said plantations could be allowed to come as long provided that companies secure the necessary requirements.

Luy said this time, the DENR would make sure the companies will comply with the law.

"Sangyan, there regional director Leon also asked them to secure ECCs or they would bring out their spanned shots," he said reminders during the city council session on Thursday.

Luy said the DENR suspected that the owners of some of the companies have connections with the Lim's.

"Sangyan, there regional director Leon also asked them to secure ECCs or they would bring out their spanned shots," he said reminders during the city council session on Thursday.

Luy said the DENR suspected that the owners of some of the companies have connections with the Lim's.

But Kapangan village chief Juanito Mendez said they would oppose the order because shutting down the plantations would have a negative effect on the village's economy.

Hundreds of locals work in the plantations, he said.

Vice Mayor Reynaldo Bermoninos said he will backing the DENR order because it is only aimed for the upholding the rule of law. Jerome D. Tenbengang, Inquirer Mindanao

DANGER
A crew clears loose soil on a road in Bohol, Bangsar, where a massive landslide caused by Typhoon "Pepeng" in 2009 still poses danger to motorists passing by. Contributed photo

9 schools to use net vs dengue

By Joey A. Galvez
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Health in Eastern Visayas (DOH-8) has identified nine elementary schools in the region as pilot areas in the campaign against dengue fever as they chronically reported here.

The schools were selected to receive Olyset nets will date to the high incidence of dengue cases last year, said Leonilo Obiña, DOH regional dengue program coordinator.

Obiña, however, could not give the number of dengue cases reported in the nine schools.

Olyset net will, which is made of polyethylene, contains permethrin—a chemical that can repel and kill mosquitoes that can cause dengue. The Japanese-made net measures 1.8 meters by 20 meters.

The pilot schools are San Jose Central School in Tacloban (39 net rolls), Palo 1 Central Elementary School in Palo town, Leyte (21 rolls); Mindoro Elementary School in Baliwagan, Ormoc City, Samar (15 rolls); Ormoc Central School in Ormoc City, Leyte (54 rolls); Tomas Oppus Central School in Biliran City, Southern Leyte (19 rolls).

Sohoton Elementary Central School in Basey, Samar (35 rolls); Guinsan Elementary Central School in Guinsan town, Eastern Samar (20 rolls); Giffith-upon 1 Central Elementary School in Catbalogan City, Samar (24 rolls); and Cervantes 1 Central Elementary School in Cervantes, Northern Samar (35 rolls).

Obiña said the Olyset net would be used either as window screen or curtains in the classrooms. Each roll runs around P3,400.

Obiña said they started installing the Olyset net since the first week of May.

"The will keep the dengue-carrying mosquitoes from entering the classrooms and stop out school children from getting bites from the Aedes aegypti," he said.

The education department came up with the program since most of dengue fever victims were school children, he explained.

Obiña admitted, however, that dressing the surrounding premises the best way to stop the spread of the disease.

Bishop hits fashion event with Virgin Mary icon

By Dickie T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Bishop Emilio Marquez rescinded the exhibition of the float of Virgin Mary in a fashion event held here on Monday than was dubbed by its organizers as "Flores de Mayo."

"Flores de Mayo" or Virgin Mary is a worshipping event, much more of a fashion event is not proper and wrong.

"Not unless the organizers were permitted by the local parish to have the icon during the event," Marquez said in a phone interview Friday).

The bishop said the Church-sponsored Flores de Mayo would still be held at the end of this month.

Marquez gave his opinion in the form of endorsement on rescinding the inclusion of the float of a revered religious icon at the end of the parade or local costumes in regal costumes, designed by local and Manila-based fashion designers, staged on Monday after noon along main streets here.

Lea Billo, secretary of Mayo Lourdes Llodra, head of Saint Ferdinand Cathedral, said she does not have nothing to do with the event.

The event, dubbed "Flores de Mayo sa Lucena 2011," was organized by Lucena Fashion designer Rholand Bunao.

According to Bunao, the inclusion of the float of Virgin Mary was requested by one of the event sponsors.

He said he ordered an associate to coordinate with the diocese on the inclusion of the religious icon but he was not accurate the result.

He conceded the participation of the religious icon, saying there was no survey when the float of the Virgin Mary was included in the fashion parade held in the city in May last year.

"There have not including the float of the Blessed Virgin in the parade, has been with us for so long," he said.

The "Flores de Mayo" which has held months here and abroad, Virginia Agoncillo Pardo, a member of the Knights of Rizal in the city of cultural preservation, chided the organizers for its wrong concept of staging a celebration event which has deep connection in the Filipino traditions.

Pardo noted the absence of lighted candles and praying devotion accompanying the icon, which was only followed by a few band of elementary students during the "Santo Rosario" instead of the traditional "Sta Si Santo."

He noted that the icon, though bedecked with flowers, was at the tail end of the parade next to the grand float of Mutya Ong, the 4th runner-up in the Ms Universe pageant last year.

Nora lamented that people watching the procession left after floats have passed, making the Blessed Virgin float isolated.

He maintained that "Flores de Mayo is about venerating and honoring her (Virgin Mary)" and that "good traditions should be kept as part of our heritage."

In the same Facebook page, Wilma Tolledo, chair of the Lucena City Council for Culture and Arts, explained that the affair was "merely a fashion event sponsored by Rt Quezon Designers Association of the Philippines and was not meant to be Lucban procession."

"Flores de Mayo" (Flowers of May) or "Santakrusan" is a much-awaited annual Catholic procession in honor of the Virgin Mary. The religious event also commemorates the search of the Holy Cross by Queen Helena and her son, the newly converted Emperor Constantine.

One of the most colorful Marian festival in the country, Flores de Mayo, was introduced by the Spaniards and has since become part of Filipino traditions.

The participants in the procession—feed because in Hispanic-inspired dress with shining crown adorning Tagalog—follow a traditional interpretation in the procession with the Santa Elena as the lead and escorted by a carabao as traditionally a young boy.

Immediately behind the queen and her little escort is a float bedecked with fresh flowers carrying the image of the Virgin Mary followed by a band that plays the traditional religious hymn "Reina Ng Lahat."

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Discovering talents in read-along

By Cris Evert B. Lato
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—This was one task he could perform with his eyes closed.

Mr. Jerome Tourism Secretary Joseph Yap Durano was not only telling the country to the interested students. He was reading a storybook to 20 children at Ayala Center Cebu.

Like a pro, Durano removed his shoes, sat on the rubber mat and exchanged meaning greetings with the children before he started reading "Magnificent Boots and Her Two Front Teeth," a story written by Angie Seiras and Mike Wrona and illustrated by Jenny Wren.

Encouraging the children to read along with the children's book, Durano told the story of Bonita, a boy who was raised by his aunt Pearl until both her lives discovered his talent as a tooth sculptor, which gained him worldwide prominence.

Durano explained some parts in Cebuano and told the children the importance of reading and sharing their values with others—something that Bonita only discovered accidentally.

The Tourism Read-Along session was held on May 21 at the Activa Zone of Ayala Center Cebu and had Toronto-raised Cebu Holdings Inc. (CHI) president Francis Monaco as guest speaker. It was organized with Ayala Center Cebu and CHI.

Barangay kid

The children are from Barangay Lahug, Mabolo, Banilad, which are part of the Cebu Business Park and neighboring Barangays Adlaon-Apas Alliance Inc.

It promotes business district in Cebu City, the Cebu Business Park site on a 92-hectare property adjacent to the two Barangays said is owned by CHI. It is home to high-rise residential buildings, shopping and business centers, as well as sports and recreational facilities, with Ayala Center Cebu as centerpiece.

Rolando Tajanlangit, a gender and development worker of CHI, said this was the first time the children attended a storytelling session.

"We hope that we will be invited to more storytelling like this. It gives the children more sense to be interested in reading again. Seeing personalities like Sir Jun (Durano) and with them that successful people are successful because they read," she said.

Durano said he used to read stories to his two children—9,2 and Cora, now 10 and 17, respectively. "I miss doing this reading session because my kids are now teenagers and they are busy. I used to when they were less years ago. It brought back a lot of nice memories," he said.

Story lessons

Bonita's story appealed to Apen Galbarde, 9, an incoming Grade 4 pupil, who said she was often teased in her class due to her crooked teeth.

"That would mean me, Sir. Isn't? I used to cry but now anymore. I tell them, 'So what if I have curly hair? I'm pretty anyway.' I learn that there is something good in being ugly," Apen said.

Rhianna, a father of five and grandfather of five, read "Tight Times," written by Anand Dariwal and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier. 28. The book delivers the message that hard work and perseverance are vital to keep during trying times.

Neighbors Cristin Tamolang and Rhonna Mae Baba liked the story because it reminded them to be grateful with the little things they had.

"The parents are factory workers but they work hard in giving us what we need even if sometimes we lack some things. But we are lucky because we still have something to eat," said Cristin, 13, an incoming Grade 8 pupil.

Rhonna, 11, said she learned to be patient.

"I'm not always patient. Sometimes I get mad when my mother scolds me. But I learned that I should be patient," she said.

Durano said he was glad to be able to share his talent in reading to the children.

"I'm glad that I was able to share my talent in reading to the children. I hope that I was able to inspire them to read more," he said.

FORMER Tourism Secretary Ace Durano reads the book "Magnificent Boots and His Two Front Teeth" to children at the Ayala Center Cebu Activa Zone.

Trapped Negros hikers rescued

ISNEGUTE CITY—Eight hikers were rescued on Friday afternoon from Mt. Talinis in Valencia town, Negros Oriental where they had been trapped since Thursday.

The Negros Oriental Search and Rescue headed by Bryan Jeanaie rescued up Mt. Talinis Friday and found the group still wherenear Pe dro.

Only one of the eight hikers were identified—Gil Gerding Jr.of Dumaguete.

Angelo Tongson, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council action officer said the eight hikers left for Mt. Talinis on Wednesday and were scheduled to arrive back in Valencia town proper on Thursday.

Gerding sent a message to his brother Mac informing him that they could not return because they could not cross the swelling Banilad River due to heavy rains.

Jalosa, the 23 year-old son of Provincial Assistant Prosecutor Eugene Jalosa, sent a text message to his mother Thursday midnight asking for help after they got lost in the forest.

Gerding also asked for phone load, Jalosa said.

According to Jalosa, the hikers were youth members of the Heartland Covenant Church, formerly known as Christ Ministries, a unit of the Pentecostal Church. Florencefranz Inquirer Visayas

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Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1st Reading: Acts 16:1-10

Paul traveled on to Derbe and then to Lystra. A disciple named Timothy lived there, whose mother was a believer of Jewish origin but whose father was a Greek. As the believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him, Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him. So he took him and, because of the Jews of that place who all knew that his father was a Greek, he circumcised him.

As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions of the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, for the people to obey. Meanwhile, the churches grew stronger in faith and increased in number every day.

They traveled through Phrygia and Galatia, because they had been prevented by the Holy Spirit from preaching the message in the province of Asia. When they came to Mysia, they tried to go on to Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to do this. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

There one night Paul had a vision. A Macedonian stood before him and begged him: "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" After he had had the vision, we realized that God was calling us to give the Good News to the Macedonian people.

Gospel: Jn 15:18-21

Jesus said to his disciples, "If the world hates you, remember that the world hated me before you. The world not for us if you belonged to the world, because the world loves its own. But you are not of the world since I have chosen you from the world, because of this the world hates you.

"Remember what I told you: the servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you, too. If they kept my teaching, they will also keep yours. All this they will do to you for the sake of my name because they do not know the One who sent me."

Reflection

We are by now commonly aware that the community of Jesus arouses enmities. Thus the author: "all who live pious lives in union with Christ Jesus will be persecuted." We have been intimately linked to Jesus by virtue of our baptism, so much so that we share His lot in life in good times and in bad. That's why Jesus tells us that of the affection of unbelief and betrayal we have to suffer. Yet we seek consolation in that we will not walk alone. We suffer but also Magdalen. The last word is the life of Jesus' Resurrection! In the end we will triumph! Do not be impatient. Therefore instead of despairing, rejoice. Our future is sure with Him.

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

2 bus terminals to rise on both ends of Metro

By Frondoso P. Endozo

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) plans to set up two centralized bus terminals for provincial buses on both ends of the metropolis and to issue a unified smart card system, both proposals aimed at easing up traffic in Metro Manila.

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino said the terminals would be located in Balintawak, Quezon City, and Mall of Asia in Pasay City, adding these would operate "like an airport" with scheduled time of arrivals and departures for commuters.

"The consolidated terminal in Balintawak is envisioned to be a strategic position for commuters traveling to the northern provinces, while the Pasay terminal will be considered as the gateway for southern provincial routes.

The measure is expected to lead to the phase out of the terminals currently situated in Cubao and the inner interchanges of Pasay.

Tolentino noted he set intentions during his initial talks with group leaders last week, and is set to initiate negotiations on June 16.

"The project is ready and is awaiting for approval through a private-public partnership," he said.

The MMDA chief also proposed the use of "smart cards" that can serve as "all-in-one" ticket for buses and trains.

Once implemented, the measure will also help in diversifying commuter lanes, as vehicles without official beneficiaries, said Traffic Management Assistant General Emerson Carlos.

"The use of cashless transactions through 'smart cards' will also avoid robbery (typical from erring drivers, it will avoid clearing) bribery from enforcers, and it will avoid backlogs of drivers," he added.

Both measures were inspired by traffic management efficiency practices in South Korea.

"I have seen how efficient the scheme works in South Korea," said Tolentino yesterday at the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the MMDA and Cubao Mass Inc. of Group Oi , South Korea.

Kim signed a pledge to share his country's best practices in urban planning. It was up to in the seas of government of South Korea. In capital, Seoul, it regarded as one of the most populous cities in that country.

Clinic robbed; dentist raped

Suspected thief posed as patient

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Maralise Chuang

POSING as a patient, a man barged and robbed two female dentists of more than P200,000 in cash and personal belongings before raping one of the victims inside their clinic in Manila.

Manila Police District (MPD) investigators said the suspect even submitted himself to a dental examination before pulling the heist and attacking one of the victims.

Police said the incident happened around 3 p.m. on Thursday inside the clinic along Pedro Gil Street in Paco.

An investigation showed that shortly before the robbery, the suspect entered the clinic and told the two to needed dental services.

One of the dentists then proceeded to check his teeth.

While the examination, the man reportedly asked the two dentists if he could rest inside their clinic for fear his wife who was also having a medical check up nearby.

The dentists agreed and allowed him to stay inside an upstairs room. After several minutes, the suspect left the clinic, the suspect was left alone in the clinic with the dentists.

Opportunity

MPD chief said robbery victim investigators said that the moment the clinic had been emptied of other patients, the man locked the main entrances, and brought out a his knife, a handgun, and a tear gas canister before the victims and announced the holdup.

He then proceeded to bugzie the two using a thick transparent tape.

One of the dentists was led to a dentist's chair while her 43-year-old colleague was told to lie on the floor.

The suspect then started ransacking the dental office of P20,000 in cash; P150,000 worth of jewelry; three mobile phones worth P10,000; a tablet computer worth P5,000; and a portable DVD player valued at P4,000.

But before fleeing with his loot, the victim allegedly raped the 47-year-old dentist who had invited him.

The dentists were able to flee from where and seek police assistance after the suspect fled.

Operatives of the MPD theft and robbery section are conducting follow-up operations for the identification and arrest of the suspect as well as the possible recovery of the stolen items.

Aussies lead cleanup brigade in Tondo

By Jayleen T. Sistoza

WHILE foreigners may be a dime a dozen in malls and beaches in the Philippines, you don't really expect to see them living mainstream lives in the middle of the teeming slum district of Tondo in Manila.

And not even those you where no less than ambassador Rod Smith, and a handful of his fellow Australians, were last Wednesday morning slumming it in one of the most notorious—rough, as well as—neighborhoods in the Metropolitan Capital Region.

The Australian Embassy-sponsored activity at Tondo High School was part of the Department of Education's annual Brigada Eskwela program, which taps the local communities, school staff, volunteers and partner organizations to conduct a weeklong spring-up of dilapidated schools before classes start in June.

On Wednesday, around 30 embassy staff composed of Australian Embassy staff and their kin, mostly Filipinos, trooped to Tondo to help paint walls at the local high school and General Vicente Lim Elementary school.

A newcomer to the Brigada Eskwela project, Smith painted walls in painting a classroom at the 40-year-old high school, joking that his work won't likely win him any painting awards.

His sweeping gestures, however, was highly appreciated by the department's school principal. A classified Principal IV Analita Engkoy took one look at a freshly-coated corner near the ceiling, turned to Smith, and said: "It's more than just to you," before turning his attention to painting the lower half of the wall.

It is the embassy's second time to join the Brigada Eskwela project. "We think this is a fantastic initiative to help the government and the local community," Smith explained, adding they will also be bringing more Filipinos and fair volunteers to at least eight schools in Metro Manila and one school in ARMM.

The embassy's Brigada Eskwela effort is just a small part of their campaign for better education in the Philippines, Smith said their Australian government that was will be providing support in teachers training, school-based management practice, education planning and management systems, providing 130 scholarships for higher education, assisting in developing culturally-responsive education curricula, and building school facilities, "especially in Muslim Mindanao where we see the need is greatest."

The public school's facilities aren't up to snuff, four in four being suffered the worst end-size of having too many students, currently pegged at 4,361. Vandalized walls, worn wooden armchairs, old chalkboards, broken windows and torn grill doors, broken electric fixtures in general "lack of resources," Engkoy admitted.

He expressed his gratitude to the Foreign volunteers who chose to share their manpower and their time—in their school, painting the second floor classrooms, repairing facilities and donating materials.

Volunteer Jessie O'Leary, whose mother is also from Barrio Fiesta Subdivision, noted that while he "has seen worse classrooms" in the Philippines in his town's stay in the country, there didn't seem enough classrooms and resources for the thousands of Tondo High School students.

Not hard work

A teacher himself in Australia, O'Leary was glad he could help in his own way. "Volunteering isn't very hard work. I think help a little, and it doesn't hurt me; so why not?"

It's a place like the Philippines, education is fundamental. Anything that can change the state of education is positive," he added.

The Australian Agusto Tiamzon, president of the Philippine-Australian Alumni Association Inc. (PAAAI), a group of former Australian Embassy scholars, volunteering under Brigada Eskwela was a way of showing the Filipinos they overseas. The PAAAI has committed to cleaning up 10 schools, and donating school materials like chalk.

In 2007, Tiamzon was one of the government employees sent by the Australian Embassy to the Land Down Under to pursue a years-long scholarship. She took up marketing studies on Administrative Law and Public Policy at the University of Sydney.

"When we returned, we were inspired and thought we could effect changes in our government in our own small way," she said.

Smith said: "We got new cars!" Rumors said. But it was easy just to good new. Here, the PAAAI holds seminars and forums for transformational leadership, and has started gift-giving in schools and building houses for the poor and other who they see in Australia.

LAS PINAS SCHOOL CLEANUP Las Pinas Rep. Mark Villar and Brigada Eskwela chairman of the mayor Benavidez School in Las Pinas City Wife Villar are flanked by Ambassador Alan Clayton Sugar Alejandro and School Principal Benita Dekano. CONNIE BRACHER

Killing the goose that lays the golden eggs

ON TARGET
Rodrigo Valdez

DELTHAT legislators senior the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) scrapped 12 years after the treaty with the US was signed.

Here are some of their commentary against the VFA:

ACT party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio: The VFA "has allowed the permanent basing of US forces in the country in the guise of never-ending exercises, and 'maneuvers troops engaging in combat' military operations in the south."

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Neri Colmenares: The VFA is "an affront to our sovereignty and has caused unconscionable damage to the Filipino people ... We are now suspects for attacks by the enemies of the US."

Renato Reyes Jr., secretary general of the Bayang Ayaayang Makabayan (Bayan): US troops are "targeted as to many undefined activities in the country in the name of 'war on terror.' We will not be surprised that they have engaged in armed combat operations secretly in violation of our laws and the Constitution."

Militants denounce the supposed "unequal character" of the VFA in favor of the US.

But haven't they looked here how much the country has benefited from the VFA in terms of helping restore peace in Mindanao, particularly in Zamboanga and Basilan?

Many leaders of the 43th Special have been killed in an ongoing barrage of US satellites and the huge armored convoy put up by the American government.

In much knowledge in the art of guerrilla warfare has been learned by Filipino soldiers from elite US Army Special Forces and US Navy Seals who take part in joint maneuvers.

In many sophisticated arms and equipment are handed to the Armed Forces of the Philippines that are necessary for them to return to their country after a relief base.

It's not as much, but American soldiers on assignment here for the VFA spend billions which go to the economy.

Regarding the argument that the VFA makes the country a "magnet for attacks by the enemies of the US," it's the other way around.

The international terror network al-Qaeda trained some of its members in the Philippines to undertake sabotage operations on US soil.

The US government recently executed our government that it would come to our aid if another country attacked us.

The reassurance was made in the wake of our confrontation with Chinese over the Spratlys.

Let's not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Chiz, 6 others in Quezon City road accident

By Nancy C. Carvajal

SEN. FRANCIS "Chiz" Escudero and seven passengers of another vehicle sustained slight injuries when their cars collided at the intersection of Don A. Roces and Maria Luisa Estate in Barangay Paraphernalia, Cubao, Quezon City Thursday night.

Sup. Julie Ustarez, Quezon City Police District Traffic Enforcement Group Traffic Sector 4 head, said the others who were hurt were members of a Catholic group in their van who were riding on a bus that hit Escudero's Lexus Sports Dolby Vehicle.

Ustarez said the intersection where the collision took place had no traffic lights and was not properly lighted.

Escudero, who was driving along Don A. Roces, was injured in the head when the van driven by Manuel Ubaldo, 50, bumped the back of his SUV.

Ustarez said the passengers of the van were brought to St. Luke's Medical Center for treatment.

They were identified as Ronal Domingo, a chaplain; Eric Domingo, 40; and Joselito Gilbuelan, 62, pastor Narciso Cuenco Jr., 62; and Ruth Domingo, 26.

Both vehicles did not sustain any major damage from the collision, Ustarez said. He added that Escudero and the church people have agreed on a settlement and neither party will be filing any charges.

METROBRIEFS

Missing inmate found buried under prison hut

A PRISONER at the national penitentiary reported missing since Tuesday was found buried under a makeshift hut inside the maximum security compound. Prison guards investigated at least three inmates who could be involved in the attack. The victim was identified as Brian Pelle, 32, who allegedly was dug up by two prison guards before a relief an official of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) told the investors. "We took state documents of the victim and other details in the case. At least two accused remain under the Police's death sentence and with no one coming to claim the victim's body, and whether he was set to be set to settle it. The accused could face life. Another a prison inmate meanwhile, said the victim was purportedly sending out messages to the wife of a prison gang leader. The letter discovered when had been happening and the leader allegedly ordered a hit on Pelle. The inmate, both BuCor investigators disclosed to be identified as the person was not authorized to speak to the press. Pelle was brought to the hospital inside the maximum, since by compound. Prison Building 5, where the area was reported to have been the detention cubicles on Tuesday, according to the source.

TV star hurt as van hits lamppost in Quezon City

REALITY television show star Matt Evans faces charges of reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property after he rammed his car into a lamppost near a bus terminal and damaged it here in Quezon City, police yesterday. Police Senior Inspector Ronald Rivera of Traffic Sector 3 of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) said they have recommended the prosecution of Ronald Evans of Evans, pilot member GMA-7 (GMA) Pinoy Big Brother Teen Clash of 2010, after he allegedly lost control of his car at around 12 a.m. of the 28th from the corner of Aurora Blvd. in Barangay Milagrosa, Quezon City, Bongao said. He said Evans had abandoned his car and left with another man, apparently a relative, before police arrived. He added that based on witnesses accounts, Evans, who was with a female companion, appeared to be drunk when they came out of the vehicle. Nancy C. Carvajal

Estella cab analysis shows new paint stains

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A PARIT analysis conducted on the paint samples taken from the late journalist and university professor Leandro "Dan" Estella has confirmed that another has hit the cab before the late driver by Daniel Espinosa rammed into it.

Supt. Arnold Lamango, head of the Quezon City Police District Traffic Enforcement Unit, said the paint analysis was part of the autopsy order by QCPD director Chief Supt. George Regis based on the statement of the late driver and Espinosa.

Samples collected from the car involved conducted by the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory will be submitted to the court hearing the complaint against Espinosa.

Lamango also said they are waiting for a witness (Estella's cousin) as they can present the latest results of the probe.

The traffic official said the analysis showed that apart from orange paint, chips of paint from the back of the victim's car were also found on the Daniel Gudang Sala bus driven by Espinosa.

"The paint chips did not match the color of Estella's Gudang Sala bus," Lamango said.

Espinosa and two witnesses pointed to a Metro Auto Transport bus that allegedly hit the old-timer.

The two eyewitnesses, who employees of Gudang Sala, had submitted their affidavits to the police investigators supporting Espinosa's statement that another bus hit the cab before him.

US high court upholds law penalizing hiring of illegal immigrants

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld an Arizona law that imposes harsh penalties on businesses that hire illegal immigrants.

The 5-3 decision appeared to endorse vigorous state efforts to punish employers who intentionally hire illegal workers. The majority opinion, written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., on behalf of the court's five more conservative members, said Colorado, Mississippi, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah and West Virginia had already enacted laws similar to the one at issue in the Arizona case.

The decision did not directly address a more recent Arizona law that gives the police greater authority to check the immigration status of people they stop. The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals blocked enforcement of that law in April, and the case now awaits the Supreme Court action.

The challenge to the Arizona law that was the subject of Thursday's decision was brought by a coalition of business and civil liberties groups, with support from the Obama administration. They said the law, the Legal Arizona Workers Act, conflicted with federal immigration policy.

The act was signed into law in 2007 by Janet Napolitano, a Democrat who was then the governor and is now secretary of the Homeland Security Department.

The decision on Thursday turned mostly on the meaning of a provision of a 1986 federal law, the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which said that it preempts "any state or local law imposing civil or criminal sanctions (other than through licensing and similar laws) upon those who" recruit or hire "unauthorized aliens."

The question was whether sanctions was confined to suppression the penalties in the 1986 federal law with much tougher sanctions of its own. The state argued that the phrase in parts, Justice Roberts wrote, "is a licensing and similar laws"—all it doesn't do is suspend or revoke the business licenses of rogue employers. Critics called that provision of the state law a "business death penalty."

Roberts wrote that the word "licensing" should be read broadly to give states considerable latitude in efforts to prevent the hiring of illegal workers. He dismissed arguments put forth by Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy, Samuel A. Alito Jr. and, for the most part, Clarence Thomas.

Justice Breyer, who reaches immigration issues in Temple University, said the majority's broad reading would have consequences. "In some ways, this decision has exemption through which states can drive a truck," he said. "It's definitely going to embolden anti-immigration constituencies to work through state capitals." New York Times News Service

BOSNIAN Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic (right) during May 7, 1995, and after his arrest on May 26.

Mass executions at Srebrenica were Mladic's mark, downfall

By David Rohde and John F. Burns

WITH video cameras capturing the moment, Gen. Ratko Mladic's bodyguards handed out chocolates to Bosnian Muslim children, promising terrified women that the violence was over.

"No one will be harmed," the Bosnian Serb commander said on July 11, 1995, gently patting a young boy on the head. "You have nothing to fear. You will all be evacuated."

As he spoke, thousands of his soldiers formed a vast cordon around the town of Srebrenica, a UN-protected "safe area" that had just fallen to his forces. Over the next 10 days, his soldiers hunted down, captured and summarily executed 8,000 men and boys from the town. Women were raped. And plans for the systematic murder of the entire Muslim community were mobilized.

"Over 500 victims of the Srebrenica genocide were born under the age of 18," said Hasan Nuhanovic, a survivor from Srebrenica whose father, mother and brother were executed by Mladic's forces. "They were 14, 17 years old when they were executed."

The mass executions around Srebrenica became Mladic's plan's legacy—and his undoing. The anger and humiliation felt in Washington and in European capitals prompted the international community to act against Bosnian Serb forces after years in which Serb forces systematically pushed Muslims and Croats out of areas they claimed belonged to the Serbian ethnic group. Within weeks, punishing NATO airstrikes reversed the course of the war. Within months, a peace accord had been signed and Mladic was a fugitive.

In the early 1990s, Mladic supported President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia as he organized ethnic divisions and tried to turn the majority of the country into a "Greater Serbia" dominated by ethnic Serbs. In time, fighting erupted between Yugoslavia's three main ethnic groups—Orthodox Serbs, Roman Catholic Croats and Muslim Bosnians—in a series of overlapping civil wars.

Srebrenica was not the general's first act of brutality. The massacre was the culmination of a years of unrelenting violence that began with the siege of Sarajevo in 1992, the largest in modern warfare. The four-year bombardment killed 10,000 people, including an estimated 1,500 children. In Sarajevo, Mladic embraced a frightening form of warfare where a heavily armed military fired shells, mortars and sniper bullets at civilians. Air forces were also accused of using systematic rape as a weapon of war.

As the Bosnian Serb army conducted a campaign of unrelenting violence," one senior prosecutor said in the opening statement of a 2000 trial of one of Mladic's subordinates. "There was nowhere safe for a Sarajevan. Not at home, not at school, not a hospital, from daylight to late attack."

Born in a suburb of Sarajevo, Mladic grew up in a household haunted by the ethnic divisions that the Yugoslav dictator, Josip Tito, had attempted to suppress for decades. Mladic's father was killed in an attack against ethnic Croat forces allied with Nazi Germany that included some Bosnian Muslims. An infant at the time, Mladic never knew his father. German records showed that hundreds of thousands of Serbs died during the occupation, and Mladic had made it his mission to avenge them.

In news conferences, he was a silent, brooding and intimidating presence beside Radovan Karadzic. The two men were the leaders of Bosnia's Serb communities in the wars in Croatia and Bosnia from 1991 to 1995.

Both men said that their forces were defending Europe from a Muslim onslaught secretly backed by wealthy developed nations. In reality, the Serb opposition were poorly armed local people who had coalesced in ethnic enclaves earlier. From the first shots in April 1992 to the eventual peace accord at Dayton, Ohio, in December 1995, the war is estimated to have cost about 100,000 Bosnian lives, including 10,000 in the siege of Sarajevo.

As commander of the Yugoslav National Army's Second Military District, headquartered in Sarajevo, Mladic was ideally placed to lead the Bosnian Serbs in their quest for secession from the newly independent Bosnia. In May 1992, Mladic ordered his forces to begin the siege of Sarajevo, cutting off all electricity, food and water to the city. UN militia interred residents to survive, but the carnage steadily mounted.

New York Times News Service

David Rohde was imprisoned by Bosnian Serb forces for 7 days in 1995 after he became the first reporter to discover mass graves near Srebrenica. John F. Burns covered the siege of Sarajevo.

Syrians switch to night protests to try to elude security forces

BEIRUT, Lebanon—In a shift in strategy, protesters across Syria have moved their daily demonstrations against the government of President Bashar Assad to the evening, in the expectation that security forces will be more reluctant to shoot at them and have a more difficult time identifying those for arrest, activists and organizers said.

The new tactic underlines the evolution of the nine-week uprising, which has shown growing signs of resilience as it has weathered a ferocious crackdown. Since the uprising erupted with protests in a poor town in southern Syria, activists have tried to bring more organization and coordination to demonstrations that once seemed spontaneous.

Human rights activists estimate the death toll since the uprising began on March 18 at 1,400, and they say that at least 10,000 protesters are in jail. In addition to using live ammunition, security forces have been on demonstrators with batons and dispersed them with water cannons, all tactics that organizers contend are more difficult to carry out after nightfall.

"The evening demonstrations are not the last thing," said one activist in the northern city of Aleppo, who provided only his first name, Abdullah. "We have other tactics for the coming weeks and months. We expect our organizing to continue for a long time."

The revolt has posed a serious challenge to the authoritarian government of Assad, 45, an ophthalmologist who received his training in England and inherited his office in 2000 from his father, Hafez. Together, the Assad family has led the country's strategic linchpin in the region for four decades.

Activists say that demonstrations occur every evening in various towns across the country, including Damascus and its suburbs; Deir al Zour, to the northeast of the capital; Homs and Hama, in central Syria; and Aleppo and

COURTROOM sketch of Blagojevich

Blagojevich fights for his life at his trial

CHICAGO—As unrepentant Rod Blagojevich marched on Thursday the campaign of his life, risking the witness stand at his corruption trial in an attempt to win over a jury that will decide, among other things, if he tried to sell or trade President Barack Obama's old Senate seat for personal gain.

Looking directly at the jurors who will decide his fate, Blagojevich tried to connect with them by laying out nearly every detail of his biography: his upbringing, his first job, the university of his college years. He described how he set up his own consulting company and in his parents' working class values and to one point choked up as he talked about the day he met his wife, Patti.

Not until five hours into his testimony did Blagojevich and his attorneys begin to address the 20 charges of corruption against him. On the first of what could be several days on the stand, he was not asked about the Obama Senate seat allegation.

But he denied other charges, saying he never tried to leverage a state school grant to squeeze Robert Emanuel's brother, a hedge fund agent, to hold a fundraiser for him. He also denied trying to shake down a race track owner.

And he denied a damning allegation made in testimony the previous day when Rep. Jesse Jackson accused him of withholding a state job for Jackson's wife at least partly because Jackson had refused to give him a $251,000 campaign donation.

"I don't remember anything remotely like that," Blagojevich said.

Indignant one minute, laughing the next, at times after that, witness Blagojevich clearly was trying to humanize himself for the jury to counteract the bleak, profane, sometimes obscene words heard on FBI wiretap recordings played in court by prosecutors over the last several weeks.

As a legal strategy he may also have been attempting to demonstrate his penchant for endless talk. That would help lay the groundwork for his attorneys' argument that Blagojevich's long discussions with aides about fundraising and getting a top job for himself or his wife were just a political candidate's unsavory ramblings.

That, legal experts say, could offset the enormous gamble of having Blagojevich testify, which will expose him to withering cross examination by prosecutors in the days to come.

"They see him tell about his life. They see him cry. It makes [the jury] think that this is not the type of person who should be convicted of these things. That's an element you can't underestimate," said Cook County Judge Larry Lavin, a former federal prosecutor who helped convict former Illinois Gov. George Ryan of corruption. "They see him as a human being instead of this anonymous figure."

"Every case relates [the defendant] testified, the case rises and falls on the testimony of the defendant," Lavin said. "He's a huge center piece. He's with the other evidence and focuses on the defendant. Here it's just... Is the guy telling us the truth?"

If convicted on all 20 counts, Blagojevich faces a maximum prison term of 300 years. Federal guidelines would dictate he get far less, though judges can depart from those guidelines in sentencing, including whether the defendant took the stand and lied.

Putting a defendant on the stand is always considered highly risky—in part because it opens the person to intense cross-examination later. But Blagojevich's defense clearly hoped the former governor's personal skills and personal charm would help counteract the government's three-week case.

A jury deadlocked on most charges after Blagojevich's first trial last year, when defense successes would without calling a single witness. But mistrials before that trial, and the hung jury in the second, would make this retrial, then declared to do so.

The 54-year-old former governor's demeanor shifted several times over the course of the day. He initially appeared nervous, then became increasingly confident as he went off on tangents about decades-old boxing matches and his favorite movies, then turned subdued again as questioning returned more from the personal to the professional.

While he could remember in minute detail the night that he met his wife, Patti, in 1980, at the first time he saw Ryne Sandberg play for the Cubs years ago, his recollection of details in the more recent dealings as governor were far fuzzier, and he began stating "I don't remember" more often. AP

Signs of plentiful water found below moon's surface

IT'S NOT raining on the moon, but it does seem to be getting wetter and wetter.

For decades, the prevailing view of the moon was that it was dry. Then, two years ago, a lone probe crashed into a deep crater near the moon's south pole and confirmed large amounts of water ice within the shadowy. Meanwhile, measurements by an orbiting Indian spacecraft suggested that a vast sea of water, generated by the bombardment of solar wind particles, covered much of the moon's surface.

Now, scientists analyzing tiny fragments of hardened lava from long ago lunar eruptions report that the fragments contain about as much water or similar compounds on Earth, meaning there's plenty of water inside the moon too.

"There's no salmon, we were a little surprised," said Erik H. Hauri, a staff scientist in geochemistry at the Carnegie Institution of Washington and lead author of a paper published Thursday in the journal Science.

Hauri's surprise comes despite the fact that for most of the era of the moon-watchers (another era of three years ago that they would find that much water. Back then, they looked at tiny beads of volcanic glass—tiny beads were about the size of pinhole in printed text—to see how much water had been vaporized by Apollo astronauts. The beads contained water, but not a lot of it a maximum of 46 parts per million—or 0.0046 percent water. That's the moon's water content, and confirmed large amounts of water ice within the shadowy. Meanwhile, measurements by an orbiting Indian spacecraft suggested that a vast sea of water, generated by the bombardment of solar wind particles, covered much of the moon's surface.

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Los Angeles Times/New York Times News Service

The WORLD

Lito Lorente B. Sorio

Report: Gadhafi stashed billions in Western banks

MOAMMAR Gadhafi has stashed billions of dollars of Libyan oil revenue with financial institutions on Wall Street and in Europe, according to a document made public on Thursday by an international advocacy group.

Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, HSBC and Societe Generale are among the major banks that have helped Gadhafi to invest some of the Libyan sovereign wealth fund's $32 billion, according to the document, which was published on the Web by Global Witness.

Stiff suspicion have been emerging are roads against Gadhafi's forces since March in an effort to drive him from power, and the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor is seeking his arrest on charges of crimes against humanity.

The document, independently verified as authentic, is a summary of the Libyan Investment Authority's holdings, created for the fund by the London office of the consulting firm Rogers Casey and dated June 30, 2010.

It shows Goldman Sachs holding $43 million in three accounts and HSBC holding $203 million across 10 accounts. The Libyan fund also invested $1 billion in structured financial products through Societe Generale, and $117 million worth of such instruments through JP Morgan Chase.

In JPMorgan's case, the relationship was a legacy of the Libyan fund's purchase of the instruments through four forwards, which JPMorgan acquired in 2008.

The market value of the fund's investments fell 4.5 percent in the second quarter of 2011 from the first quarter, to $63.2 billion, the report showed.

The sovereign wealth fund invested $19 billion in Libyan and Middle Eastern banks, including the Central Bank of Libya, the Arab Banking Corp. and the Emirate Arab Commercial Bank, according to the report.

It also invested billions of dollars in the stocks of well-known companies, including General Electric, Halliburton, BP and Nokia, and held a large portfolio of US Treasury securities.

The investments appears to have been legal at the time, although the United Nations, the European Union and the United States in February imposed targeted financial sanctions against the assets of Gadhafi and his family. The United States also froze the assets of Libyan government-owned and controlled entities.

"The Gadhafi family has significant personal control over the state funds invested in the Libyan Investment Authority," Global Witness said. "According to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Gadhafi makes no distinction between his personal assets and the assets of the country."

The organization called on banking regulators "to investigate whether these banks have done enough to ensure that state funds have not been diverted to the Gadhafi family's personal benefit."

Global Witness said the report showed that banks and investment houses should be required to disclose state funds that they manage, as "this would end working and would allow officials to see that state revenue is not being stolen by corrupt leaders."

Fiona Laffan, a Goldman Sachs spokesperson, declined to comment, as did Jean Furet, a spokesperson for HSBC, and Brian Marchiony, a spokesperson for JPMorgan.

Lamolchalk, a spokesperson for Societe Generale, said the French bank "deals with many sovereign funds and complies with all applicable rules and regulations in the countries that we are authorized on specific dates or transactions."

New York Times News Service

A CARICATURE denouncing Libya leader Moammar Gadhafi in a wall graffiti in mind-land Benghazi, Libya.

Strauss-Kahn's lawyers seek to discredit accuser

LAWYERS for Dominique Strauss-Kahn have scattered that they possess information that they believe will undermine the credibility of the hotel housekeeper who has accused their client of sexual assault.

The suggestion, contained in a three-page letter from the lawyers to Cyrus R. Vance Jr., the Manhattan district attorney, was almost entirely devoted to the lawyers' complaints about unauthorized disclosures of the case to the press. But it included a reference to suspected information that they said would have the prosecutor's case.

In the letter, which was sent Wednesday and added to the court record, Strauss-Kahn's lawyers, William W. Taylor III and Benjamin Brafman, said they were concerned "that our client's right to a fair trial is being compromised by the public dissemination of prejudicial material even before these materials have been disclosed to his counsel."

"Indeed," the lawyers added, "were we intent on improperly feeding the media frenzy we could toss out some substantial information that in our view would severely undermine the quality of this prosecution and also gravely undermine the credibility of the complainant in this case."

While the stated purpose of the letter was to lodge a complaint about leaks to the news media, it also served as a form of legal gamesmanship—allowing Strauss-Kahn's lawyers to hint at damaging information about the woman without revealing it. Brafman declined to elaborate on that information.

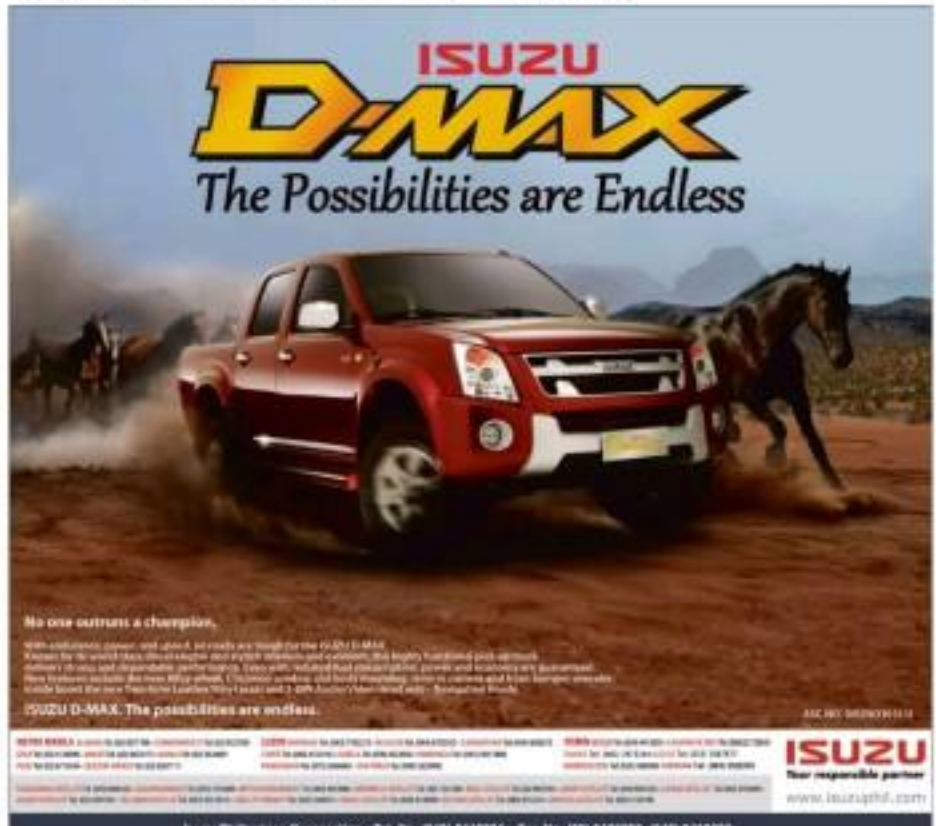
Vance's office responded with its own letter, stating it was dismayed that Strauss-Kahn's lawyers "chose to insert in the public record your claim that you possess information that might negatively impact the case and 'gravely' undermine the credibility of the victim."

The letter, which was signed by Joan Illuzzi-Orbon, the chief of the hate crimes unit, who was just appointed to the case, indicated that prosecutors knew of no such information.

"If you really do possess the kind of information you suggest that you do, we trust you will forward it immediately to the district attorney's office," Illuzzi-Orbon wrote.

Attacking the credibility of the housekeeper may be a crucial part of Strauss-Kahn's legal strategy. Although there have been leaks that there is DNA evidence tying Strauss-Kahn to a sex act, it would not indicate whether that act was forced or consensual—putting greater weight on the credibility of the woman and of Strauss-Kahn, who stepped down last week as managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

New York Times News Service



WHAT'S INSIDE
- Heat finish off Bulls /A26

Editor Volodymyr B. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Yolanda T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

- Nadal, Sharapova survive; Clijsters exits /A26

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SMART

Gilas five debuts vs Saudi Arabia

By Cedrik P. Tapay

THERE'S A bigger, more important goal ahead, but there won't be any letup for the Smart Gilas Pilipinas team storing in the Fiba Asia Championship Cup starting today.

Out to restore the country's old glory in the prestigious tournament, the Nationals begin their quest against Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad in the third game of a four-match opening fall in the Philsports arena (Pasig).

There will be no shortage of top-caliber players in the 10-nation tournament, but the spotlight undoubtedly will shine on the Smart Gilas five, which hopes to claim the country's first title since 1996.

Moreover the Hoops Confederation, canvassed by Asad Rizvi, in 1995, has a Philippine team gone all the way to the tournament. Smart Gilas finished fifth in its last appearance in 2009 in Tehran, Iran.

Gilas Pilipinas will be out to avenge a Saudi loss which he predicted will end up third in their group that also includes powerhouse 2011 champion Iran, Kuwait, Al Diqasse of Malaysia and Dubai's Al Ittiq.

Defending champion Malaysia of Iran stands in bid for a third straight crown against Al-Jaliya of Jordan 4 p.m., after the first game getting Al Fuoz Uzbeki.

Al-Ittihad shocked a 63-59 victory in the event two years ago, and certainly has set its old form in the event that will be out to get the progress of its preparation for the Olympic qualifying tournament, the Fiba-Asia Championships, in Wuhan, China, in September.

"We want to show that Smart Gilas can be competitive against the best teams in Asia," said coach Rajko Toroman. "Smart Gilas is great shape, more mature and playing much better."

Toroman's diminutive still immediately be put to the test hunting in the hands of Smart Gilas in an exhibition game Wednesday night, but Toroman expects a lot tougher squad from the Saudi Arabian squad, which is reinforced by Serbian center Sinkler Stojanovic and Jamaican Chauncy Hardy.

"We beat them once (the last time out), but I don't think it will be easy this time," said Toroman.

No changes in international basketball rules, PBA veterans Asi Taulava and Dondon Hontiveros have been added to the PH squad co-skippered by Chris Tiu and Mark Barroca for the tournament.

The 6-foot-9 Taulava, who retired up for the team in the Asian Games last year, will join Danish with naturalized player Hilmon Douthit in the frontline.

Hontiveros adds more veteran and another three-point shooting threat, considered as an important ingredient to success in international basketball.

Among the players to watch out for in the tournament are Australian-national team class Sinan Bugtai and Zaid Abbas, who will play for MIU, and the legendary Rabih Al-Mouth, who will star his name for Al Riyadi of Lebanon.

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Lifters sustain record romp in Nat'l Games

By Jun Navarro

BACOLOD CITY—Kontar Colonia crossed four national marks yesterday as weightlifters continued their record-breaking feats in the Philippine National Games here.

The 19-year-old from Zamboanga City lifted 119 kilograms in the 56 kg men's clean snatch to obliterate his PH record of 118 registered during the Asian Games in Guangzhou last year.

The sharpshooter, who specialized his ankle in training 10 days ago, also wiped out the old marks in the junior clean and jerk (122.5) and total (222.5) in the featherweight 1.05-and 214.

"I would have had a better lift in the clean and jerk. (Open) if not for the pain in my left ankle," said Colonia.

Aside from Colonia, lifters Jeffrey Garcia and Rod Louise Marcelino also set new records.

Garcia's lift in the 62 kg boys' stands eclipsed the record of 100 kg in the juniors and 95 kg in the secondary category.

Marcelino secured the mark of 75 with a 77 lift in the 56 kg secondary match.

All told, 22 new PH records were set Thursday with Bac accounting for six, Mindanao lifters Jun Ruth Gracilano and Bernice Llenar two.

Meanwhile, Bacolod pride Ranzil Gallego downed fellow "Iloilo" Reyes the door in the men's 64-kilo gauntlet finals at Negros Mall.

Gallego, the 2009 Aspen Open champion, bashed out a 9-7 win to salvage a semifinal clash with Delfin Tagudin.

Jeffrey De Leon was scheduled to face John Ortega in the other semifinal pairing late night after a 9-3 win over Hachiga Sayonjano.

Bulelani Apad, 2009 world 39 Hall of Famer, humbled 11 seed-old Claudia Gomez of Zamboanga, 9-6 to reach the 9 ball finals.

In swimming, Jesse Hung Lorena secured his sixth gold after leading off La Union's Elizabeth Pitt in the 50-meter breaststroke, while Jessame Alkhaldi finished a fifth gold.

Lacuna, who also won golds in the 200m freestyle, 1,500m freestyle, 200m individual and medley and 400m free, clocked 11.09 seconds to edge Vibi (11.45).

Alkhaldi added the 400m IM (5:04.38) to her earlier victories in the 200m free, 50m fly, 200m free and 1000 free.

Underscoring the Final Runner-Brothers, Joey John Gregorio (B), Jose Anthony Gregorio (Gold medalist), Christian Tello Cruz (Brother), Dudlee Lopez (Bro), Maria Camille Mendoza (Right striker) and Jessy Ann Reyes (middle hitter) were their finals matches and are bound to keep their finals in the national pool.

In athletics, long-distance runners Dana Herrera and Jhe-Ann Ramsey took the gold in the men's and women's 5,000-meter run.

Running timed 17:49.88 to beat Mary Joy Tabal (18:29.70) and Mae Grace Dolor Santos (18:32.91), while Herrera turned back Julius Jermaine over in the men's 5,000 in 14:51.40 to edge Jhe-Ann 1.2 flanks in the complete time.

FIGHT: Ross Alfonzo (right) of JE points a kicking attack by Marjorie Pimentel of UP in boxing's sales finals. Alfonzo won. —PHOTO BY

Arum accepts De La Hoya apology

By Ronnie Nathanielsz

TOP RANK promoter Bob Arum has accepted the public apology of Oscar De La Hoya and reports had this could pave the way for the return to action of WBC/WBO bantamweight champion Nonito Donaire Jr.

"I accept De La Hoya's apology and am grateful for it," Arum told the Boxing Tribune.

De La Hoya, who had clashed with Arum over promotional issues in the past, issued the apology in his Twitter account while undergoing rehabilitation for substance abuse.

He also apologized to Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao who had lifted a case in court against De La Hoya, Golden Boy Promotions, CEO Richard Schaefer, Floyd Mayweather Jr. and his father Floyd Sr. over claims that Pacquiao was on performance enhancing drugs.

"I would like to humbly apologize for any pain I have caused to you and your family," De La Hoya told Arum. "I also want to apologize to Manny Pacquiao for my wrongdoing in my past. We are a great champion."

Donaire's planned unification fight on May 28 against WBA champion Anselmo Moreno was scuttled after Donaire signed up with De La Hoya's GBP training stable of trainer by Top Rank for failing to give him three fights a year under their agreement.

Arum explained, however, that Donaire had been suspended for possible injuries on two occasions and that there was no way Top Rank would keep its three-fight-a-year commitment.

Arum hinted in a resolution of the Donaire case, which is being handled by Boxing judge Daniel Weinstein who arbitrates the issue.

"I think we'll probably see that (a resolution) the next week," Arum said.

DE LA HOYA: Also apologized to Pacman

Top female jins vying in Smart tilt tomorrow

MEMBERS of the talented pool will spearhead the women fighters seeing action in the 2011 Smart national all-women's taekwondo championships tomorrow at the Rizal Coliseum.

Among the national pool jins competing are Jyn Mare Lizardo, Camille Masado, Jade Ortiz, Pauline Lopez, Kath Silvo, Cecilia Vina and Chandelier Sanders.

Other participants will come from Philippine Taekwondo Association chapters nationwide, including those from the military.

They will vie for honors in senior women, junior women and grade school girls divisions. Action starts at 9 a.m.

Organizing committee chair Sang Chon Hong said the competition is the PTA's commitment to the development of sports in the country, particularly in the grassroots.

"Our country's leading and up-and-coming female athletes will display different techniques and styles as they compete in the tournament," Hong said, adding that the PTA has already lined up big competitions for the year.

He will also send top athletes to two qualifying tournaments for next year's London Olympics," said Hong.

Tom Rivers represented the Philippines in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. She was champion volleyball Smith Cup's Cancún, 6-1, in the 47 kg preliminaries round.

SURRET Point's Dennis Gonzales gets the better of this weight Park jung-soo.

Gonzales stuns Park, gains Samsung semis

SURRET POINT'S Dennis Gonzales ended Park Jung-soo's quest for a third Samsung National Tournament of Club Champions crown with a 1-up win Thursday to advance to the semifinals at Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club's Fidel Ramos Course in Alfonso, Cavite.

Gonzales, who also handled out Ilac Bravo-Ghost de Leon, 1-up in the first round as the Nomura Japan, knocked down a clutch par putt on the 18th to clinch the biggest win of the match play phase of the annual event sponsored by Samsung.

He goes for a fourth berth against Valley Golf's fifth seed Adrian Elmaco, who also upended Sr. 4 Leon Garcia of Dasmari, 2 and 1, in their semi-side of the quarterfinal-duel in the week-long tournament held in golf-rich Cavite. Eagle Ridge Golf and its Architecture Ric Lanis Pearly and Al Samson Limited Inc. and Insurance Golf.

Richard Jacinto of Rizal's Northwoods faced top seed Alcelia 2 meeting as he second of Malacañang's Ronald Rodriguez, 5 and 4, to set up a Final Four clash with Richard Jacinto, who also sent golds in the 200m freestyle, 1,500m freestyle, 200m individual and medley and 400m free, clocked 11.09 seconds to edge Vibi (11.45).

Alkhaldi added the 400m IM (5:04.38) to her earlier victories in the 200m free, 50m fly, 200m free and 1000 free.

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UE sweeps Dunkin' beach volleyball elims

UNIVERSITY OF the East topped UE Junior Maristas, 21-6, 21-8, 21 earning the Boys B division and spot in the Juniors playoffs at the men's match of the Dunkin' Big Beach high school beach volleyball at the SM Cubao's open courts recently.

The UE spikers then overcame Ateneo High School's 4-0 native Boys A as they lead the card to be quarterfinal round.

Other results (Boys A): 1. Ateneo de Manila vs. Ateneo Grade 7, 21-17, 21-13; 2. Ateneo de Manila vs. Ateneo Grade 8, 21-17, 21-13; 3. Ateneo de Manila vs. Ateneo Grade 9, 21-17, 21-13; 4. Ateneo de Manila vs. Ateneo Grade 10, 21-17, 21-13; 5. Ateneo de Manila vs. Ateneo Grade 11, 21-17, 21-13; 6. Ateneo de Manila vs. Ateneo Grade 12, 21-17, 21-13.

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Heat reach NBA Finals; spotlight shines on Fil-Am coach

SACRAMENTO, California—Filipino-American would perform months Kinsey Penguins. Tim Lincecum and Erik Spoelstra today share their connections at the Big Three when it comes to sports savvy.

Rodney by 108 million after his legendary victory against Floyd Mayweather. In Las Vegas yesterday that reminded Pacquiao's biggest one, but since remained home.

Manny is back being a congressman and is on his way to be inaugurated one Saturday with his fellow legislators who share universal access to medical institutions' textbook to stop the country's runaway population growth.

Interesting, witness more by being based athletes, to #No is coming real for the Jose Francisco Giants, Jose Fred Gonzalez, the 29-year-old Antelecan of the De Asa family of Bulacan. Statistically, could likely get sexual intercourse from conquering. The is until the Giants—baseball's reigning World Series champs—become 108 total underscores.

This leaves the spotlight to Spoelstra, who until three years ago was virtually

SOUTHPAW

Percy D. Della

Powered by basketball-reference.com

1.1 million Filipinos and 1.1 million in intermarriages who live in the United States.

* * *

Still married to the Miami Heat—three years and by the latest head-coach heroine, an assistant coach, and now sees the Heat shines as the Statehood Basketball Association's head coach.

As is the first fil-Am and the first Asian-American to reach the head coaching ranks in any of the three major sports leagues—the NBA, National Football League and Major League Baseball.

The Heat come from a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter to defeat the Chicago Bulls, 83-80, Thursday night

(Friday morning in Manila) to win the Eastern Conference Finals. By overcoming the amazing comeback, Erik Spoelstra set match to become the first ever Fil-Am and Asian to coach a major league champion team.

From the mediterranean the Southern, Erik's late-time Erik Spoelstra is one of the most remarkable tales in sports. The 39-year-old bachelor, whose name, Elsa Cristina Spoelstra from San Pablo, Laguna, is in an intimate position of power while coaching three of the NBA's biggest franchises—Miami Heat, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

And because so much is expected from the talented Heat, millions of eyes worldwide are upon Spoelstra as the NBA Championship.

Riff of Fernie Pat Riley, who assistant-coached Spoelstra the Heat's coaching position in 2008, believes Erik Spoelstra possesses well and is ready to lead the team to a rematch with the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA Finals.

The Heat beat the Mavericks in the latter's 2006 championship.

"He's ready for that," said Riley in a recent newspaper interview. "I think Erik's ready for this. I think the last two years have really molded him to being able to deal with all the aspects you have to deal with as a head coach. The guy in charge of your making the playoffs or making the fourth or fifth playoffs, you had the same kind of pressure as you would if you had to try to win a championship. He's got all the qualities. All he has to do is coach the team."

* * *

Riley and Udonis Haslem, the only two remaining players on the old Heat squad that won the NBA title, are equally confident of their coach's abilities.

"He understands that I love to play for him," Haslem told a reporter recently. "Erik's the only coach I ever to play for. Hopefully, when I leave this game, he's coached at one of the best coaches the NBA has ever to compete."

* * *

"Erik's a very intelligent coach," Haslem continued. "I mean he's been around the game a long time and done a lot of things. It's unbelievable what he's going to be prepared. He's one of the best basketball minds that I've been around, and I've been around a few good guys, with good coaches."

Can TNT achieve the Grand Slam?

AS THE Elite 8 is underway for as 2010-11 season opens the door, anxious will inevitably fall on TNT. Tena's bid for a historic Grand Slam.

To date, with Calgon has limited here and Alaska have won the eight series.

JOE SAMANIEGO

There are huge accomplishments given now must competitors a and here opportunity opens up for.

Join me from Time, Tuesday, Sunday and Tuesday—PBA teams that tried to win the prize but just couldn't complete it.

Take for example Purefoods, a "slam" in 1998—could have topped a year of them if it came as they finally won PBA crowns after over a decade of trying. In the final reunion, there couldn't match up with eventual champion Gordon and runner-up Manila three rebels both had prior years of experience.

Talk 'n' text will be interestingly boosted by the quotient that replaces the last conference's crossover as is the last-minute entry of the league. The Tropang Texters will have to adjust to quota whether they can achieve it or not and will be asked accordingly by outfit-seasoning coaches who acted on quotas on the story.

Import-heavy, the team will inevitably be TNT's guiding light for the conference because answering is has never been easy to the recently-born decades of the league.

The Tropang Texters have been presented with the rare opportunity to be ranked as the No. 1 team in the PBA by the end of a handful of Grand Slam teams. They will try to do so on one game at a time, in their own, and with Talk 'N Text, they haven't really been a for that years, so anyway together won't be unusual a problem.

But can they do it?

* * *

There's no question they can. The former must will be what but that will all depend not on the individual merits of the great players they will put but on the composition. Talk 'N Text will be one of four teams, with a 6-foot-3 limit on its import and how that player performs against the other teams will break down the import limit for TNT.

But it's the local lineup that is always a headache for opposing teams because they have Fil-Asia who joins Mac Jaspeon and homegrown players who think every one else.

Chot Reyes has the luxury of assembling different combinations of five on the floor that have talent and a work on the court by other teams.

Jason Castro and Gerard Glen teams, TNT has the advantage of having two sit-up five to a single unit. Jimmy Alapag, Ryan Reyes, Kelly Williams, Jason Castro, Ranidel de Ocampo, Mc Pinoy, Aaron Aldrich and Larry Strawberry can be paralyzed together and can come in the same pace and deploy that Swiss army knife-style.

Their variety focuses on attacking opbrackets by without spending too much time getting or body big guys. If they want to smoke to the basket or pop from the outside, they can do it whenever they want to do so.

The rest of the field has its Third Conference challenge. Only TNT from what-ing the three. It will take a lot to do it but will give the team that does it the incredible satisfaction of having stopped a formidable team from reaching a historical pinnacle.

UST's Clark Bautista (right) grabs possession from Ateneo's Prince Caperal

FILOIL PRESEASON CAGING

Maroons through to q'finals; Tigers fall

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines clinched a quarterfinal berth yesterday even as Ateneo University entered University of Santo Tomas, 69-63, in the Filoil Flying V Blaze Preseason Premium Cup.

The Maroons crushed the winless Jr. Bombi-Blazers, 93-75, to improve to 5-2 in Group B action at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Chris Ouye sealed his early booker of the game with just 39.7 seconds left as the Chiefs moved one notch a 2-3 record in Group A.

Adrian Celada, who dished out the assist to a wide open Ouye underneath the basket, also answered with a game-high 20 points and nine rebounds.

"Our persistence and consistency had positive results in the end," said coach Lee Isaac of his Chiefs who played catch up the entire game.

"It's our last game, so it was a big thing for our players."

The Tigers, who dropped to 3-5, had a chance to take the game but Jeric Teng missed his three-point attempt at the buzzer.

Meanwhile, the the Adamson University Tamaraws shrete for a Group B sweep against the Letran Knights at 2:15 p.m. today also in San Juan.

The Tamaraws, who already clinched the top seed in the knockout quarterfinals, remains in the only unbeaten squad in seven games.

FEAR champion Jun Bello and Le Sallo, both toting 2-2 records, try to boost their quarterfinal bids in middle or Muralletes' Group A match at 4 p.m.

Magnus, holding a 3-3 card, goes for the same goal against Kaalis Aguinaldo Colleges at 11:00 p.m. With a report from Boyd Gallaget, Contributor

The Score
FILOIL FLYING V PRESEASON CUP
UP (Pascual-Vergara 13, Mendiguren 12, Alas-gas 9, Aurelio 9, Ouye 8, Celada 7, Bonoan 7, Ocampo 6) 93 – Jr. Bombi-Blazers (Ramos 19, Cabanero 12, Ilagan 11, Pascual 8, Ramirez 6, Pinto 5, Bonoan 4, Manuel 3, Ayuda 2) 75
QUARTER SCORES: 1st – 23-16; 2nd – 46-36; 3rd – 70-55; Final – 93-75
Ateneo (Celada 20, Ouye 9, Zamora 9, Ganuelas-Rosser 8, Tiongson 7, Salvanera 6, Gotladera 5, Ildefonso 4, Ferrer 3, Ramos 2, Tolentino 2, Ravanes 2, Lazaro 2, Alingasa) – Jeric Teng 3, Ildefonso 3

SPORTS

Heat finish off Bulls

Set up NBA Finals rematch with Mavericks

MIAMI Heat's Chris Bosh dunks on the Chicago Bulls during Game 5 of their Eastern Conference Finals playoff. AFP

CHICAGO—The Miami Heat star players said off their struggles and staged a fortress finish to beat the Chicago Bulls, 83-80, on Thursday and advance to the NBA Finals.

The scoring comeback from a 77-68 deficit in the last three minutes propelled the Heat to the NBA Finals against the Dallas Mavericks, a repeat of the 2006 championship series which Miami won, 4-2.

Led by Both Big Three of LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, Miami overcame a closing 10-3 run to stun the Bulls and complete a 4-1 win in the best-of-seven series for the Eastern Conference title.

James, who missed nine shots in a row before sinking his at the end, led the Heat with 26 points as Miami swept the last four games after dropping the opener in Chicago.

Wade, who committed nine turnovers, contributed 23 points including a key four-point play, and Bosh scored 20, supplying some muscle under the basket to counter Chicago's big men.

League MVP Derrick Rose topped Chicago with 23 points, but his desperate three-point heave in extra regard was blocked by James.

"Defense. Blowing together," James told a courtside reporter about how the Heat overcame the Bulls. "Just battled down the stretch and survived."

The Bulls contributed to their own demise by scrambling in the closing minutes. They fouled the ball away faithfully get off instant drum and allowed Miami's key point guy when Rose fouled Wade as he sank a three-point bucket.

"We've had seven of those games in the playoffs and the regular season where we've finished off with our defense on 12-0, 14-0 runs," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

"It's disappointing," Chicago coach Tom Thibodeau said. "We came up short at the end. We have to learn from it.

The Bulls, getting a boost from bench players Kurt Thomas and Ronnie Brewer, chipped in 12-point lead and looked like they were sending the series back to Miami for a Game Six. Then the tide turned. Wade scored two baskets and James sank a three-pointer to end his nine-shot drought and the lead was secure, 77-72.

Wade, who was MVP of Miami's last title run in 2006, steered a three-pointer and sets fouled by Rose. The free throw completed a four-point play that made it 79-76. James delivered another three to up it to 76-79. His step-back jumper amazingly put Miami in the lead with seconds left. Reuters

Rafa, Maria survive; Clijsters out

PARIS—After wasting two match points in the second set and feeling his confidence fading, Rafael Nadal left this match slip away Thursday at the French Open.

The two-time French Open champion cap, reeled second at this year's tournament, lost to the 134th-ranked Amstelveen Rat of the Netherlands, 1-6, 7-5, 6-1.

"I looked doubting a little bit," said Clijsters, who was playing only her second match since a right ankle injury knocked her out of action. "When you start doubting yourself on any surface, bad for me definitely on clay, it's the wrong attitude to have."

Clijsters, who had won her last 23 Grand Slam matches after taking the titles at last year's US Open and this year's Australian Open, failed to convert two opportunities in the second set.

Defending champion and fifth-seeded Francesca Schiavone became the first woman to reach the fourth round when Petra Mann retired while trailing, 6-3, 1-2, Friday.

Petra rolled but a double after the first game of the second set and had her blood pressure checked. She looked exhausted as her chest then started to cry but broke for a 2-0 lead.

Argentina's Gisela Dulko upset eight-seeded Anabel Medina Garrigues, 6-4, 1-6, 6-1.

Maria Sharapova also struggled, but the seventh-seeded Russian won 11 straight games after trailing 4-1 in the second set and beat 17-year-old Caroline Garcia of France, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0. No. 4 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, No. 6 Li Na of China and No. 9 Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic also advanced. AP

On the men's side, five-time champion Rafael Nadal, Australian Open runner-up Andy Murray, two-time French Open finalist Robin Soderling and No. 10 Mardy Fish of the United States reached the third round, but No. 3 Juergen Melzer of Austria lost in five sets to Czech qualifier Lukas Rosol.

Two days after Nadal was pushed to five sets for the first time at Roland Garros, the top-ranked Spaniard won in three, beating countryman Pablo Andujar, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Nadal trailed 5-1 in the third set but forced the tiebreaker. He will next face Antonio Veic of Croatia, who eliminated No. 28 Nikolay Davydenko, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, 3-6, 6-1. AP

MIAMI Sharapova celebrates after a hard-earned win over Caroline Garcia. AFP

JuanMa: I learned from Floyd loss

By Roy Luarca

SINCE SHOWN on television shrinking his own tattoo during training, Mexican great Juan Manuel Marquez will shift to medical science for his third showdown against Manny Pacquiao.

Marquez, the WBO and IBFC lightweight champion, told Entertainment on Wednesday that he'll hold up once again, just like he did against Floyd Mayweather Jr., but this time it will be done under doctor's supervision.

"I will come in at a higher weight [than normal]," said Marquez, who'll be chasing Pacquiao's WBO welterweight crown at a catch weight of 144 pounds on Nov. 12 in Las Vegas. "But I will have doctors monitoring my progress."

The 37-year-old Marquez learned during his lopsided unanimous decision loss to Mayweather on Sept. 19, 2009, that he's better than when he weighed in at 142 pounds.

In their first encounter in 2004, Marquez received three knockdowns to forge a draw with the pound-for-pound king.

When they fought again in 2008 at 130 pounds, Marquez again fell in the third round and it proved to be the pivotal factor in Pacquiao's split decision win.

A worldwide promotional tour for the bout will kick off in Manila as the surging Top Rank promoter Bob Arum told the broadcasters yesterday. The world-wide tour will end in Mexico after hitting big capitals of the world.

Arum also indicated that he expects Pacquiao to train for about eight weeks, beginning in mid-September. With reports from Rosiris Nellicomba

Bacolod romps to inaugural PFF Suzuki U23 title

By Rick Olivares

BACOLOD — Bacolod City's football team, the Negros Occidental Football Association (NOFA), made it a clean sweep of the inaugural Philippine Football Federation Suzuki U23 Championship after defeating Davao del Norte, 3-0, in the finals at the Panaad Stadium here on Sunday.

The game took a farcical turn in the final minutes of play when NOFA purposely allowed two Davao players to score within a matter of seconds to change the outcome of the match.

Davao del Norte coach Fidel Ang Jr. protested the game's result, but was overruled by the referees.

Davao del Norte had a chance to score in the first minute of play when Wilfredo Bayquen, Ronald Dakila Ong, and forward Alfonso Mahinay were unchallenged to accumulate the ball before Mahinay's shot was saved by goalkeeper Tolentino on a 1-on-1 situation.

Bacolod City's Jeff Christian Dulay scored in the 15th minute with a header from a corner kick by Jerry Gonzaga.

Davao del Norte's Jerry Gonzaga and Jeff Christian Dulay were also named Most Valuable Player and Best Goalkeeper respectively, while Davao's Jerry Gonzaga was awarded the Fair Play Award.

Bacolod finished the tournament with seven points while amassing an impressive seven goals while conceding only one.

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Foreign investments slumped in Q1

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
May 27, 2011
43.370

STOCK MARKET
May 27, 2011
43.95

Stocks end higher

LEGAL STOCKS surged for the second straight session yesterday as investors gobbled up winning, banking on rate and service stocks.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index added 43.95 points or 1.04 percent to finish at 4,274.91.

The winning of counter outperformed by the day's rising 0.82 per cent on the back of gains made by Philex as well as Lopez's "A" counterpart to local investors and "B" counterpart, both local and foreign.

Jennifer Pascua, PCIB Lopez-set Kotsia, foreign investment firm, ONG Megaworld and SM investments also led the index higher for the day. Blue-chips stocks Ayala and Bank of Commerce likewise contributed to the local bourse's gain.

Only the financial counter failed in the actively trading stocks like Bank of Commerce, Security Bank and Metrobank.

Investors also snubbed gains in Ayala Land and Globe Telecom.

Value turnover amounted to P4.77 billion. There were 174 advancers, beating 48 decliners, while 40 stocks were unchanged. **Rock C. Zhuldan**

Locals pick up slack with P140-B commitment

By Riza T. Olchondra

TOTAL FOREIGN direct investments (FDI) approved in the first quarter of the year by the four major investment promotion agencies (IPAs) amounted to P22 billion, or 52.6 percent lower than the amount approved in the same period of 2010, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

Except for the Board of Investments, the other IPAs, namely Clark Development Corp. (CDC), Philippine Economic Zone Authority and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) suffered setbacks in FDI applications. SBMA and CDC registered the highest declines of 93.7 and 92 percent, respectively.

The United States led all other countries with investment pledges of P6.7 billion, accounting for 30.4 percent of total approved FDI during the quarter.

This was followed by Japan and Korea with P4.7 billion or 21.5 percent, and P3.8 billion or 17.3 percent, respectively.

Despite the decrease in FDI, the combined approved investments of foreign and Filipino nationals reached P161.9 billion in the first quarter of 2011, up 76.8 percent from last year's P91.5 billion.

Filipino nationals accounted for the bulk of the investments in FDIs by committing P139.9 billion in investments for the first quarter of 2011, more than thrice more than P45.1 billion recorded a year ago.

NSCB secretary general Romulo A. Virola said in a phone interview that speculative price increases (a rumored rise, particularly oil, due to crises in several parts of the world might have made investors "uncertain" about currency valuations. He noted a recent survey by the Bankers Journal of Pilipinas showed waning investor confidence in the second quarter of 2011.

"Investors may have started looking for uncertainties as early as the first quarter. The biggest drops were from Japan and Korea, although the P20.6 from the US doubled. Filipino investors seemed to have more confidence in general than their foreign counterparts, partly because of their belief in the present administration, but the latest

TURN TO B2

SMC buys Cebu shipyard property for ₱596M

By Paolo G. Montecillo

A UNIT of diversified conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) has acquired parcels of land in the biggest shipyard in the Visayas area.

Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. said it had sold its 72-per-cent stake in Keppel Cebu Shipyard Land Inc. (KCSLI) to SMC Shipping and Lighterage Corp.

KCSLI is a company that owns parcels of land and land improvements found in Keppel Cebu Shipyard Inc. Keppel Philippines is a subsidiary of Singapore's Keppel Corp. Ltd.

Keppel Holdings said it sold KCSLI because it no longer had operations on the property that the company owned.

The shares in KCSLI, held by Keppel Holdings' unit Cerebrad Marine Realty Inc., will be sold for a total of P596.2 million.

"[was arrived at on a willing-buyer and willing-seller basis, taking into account the fair market value of the property and the buyer's strategic interest in the property," Keppel Holdings said in a disclosure.

SMC Shipping is the cargo handling, warehousing and shipping service provider to the San Miguel group. The company said the acquisition was necessary "to expand its business interests," but did not elaborate.

SMC is the biggest food and beverage conglomerate in Southeast Asia. Among its core subsidiaries are San Miguel Brewery Inc., Ginebra San Miguel Inc., San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc. and San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp.

The SMC group, led by chairman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and main president Ramon S. Ang, has been diversifying into heavy industries such as power generation and infrastructure to add to its growth thrust as revenues from traditional concern plateau.

NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

CESO Review Plus +++ Launching

The Golden Academic Ventures, consultants launches the Career Executive Review for the CESO Position (All Clear) commencing in Golden City and in the three (3) Testing Centers which are Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao as accredited by CESO, to wit:

Review Center	Enrollment Period	Venue	Review Dates
1.Metro Manila (Or Luzon)	May 30 to July 10, 2011	Unit 1101, NYK-MOL House Roxas cor. Paseo de Roxas Ave., Quezon City Tel. 8760710 / 8760711 Manila: 09205580041	June 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 2011
Cebu (Or Visayas)	May 30 to June 8, 2011	Rama St., Cebu City 09205580041	June 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 2011
Davao (Or Mindanao Region XI and 12)	May 30 to June 3, 2011	Capitol Int. Subdivi. Davao City 09205580041	June 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 2011
Golden City (Or CARAGA)	June 1-7, 2011	In Golden Corporation Office, 6th T. Gato EPT Golden City Tel. (085) 3412004 Mobile: 09063470479	June 8-12, 2011

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Pagcor's Jan-Apr 2011 income up by PIB

THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor) posted P11.2 billion in revenues for the first four months of 2011, up by more than P1 billion from the P10.2 billion the state-owned gaming firm said in the same period last year.

"For the month of the billion, Pagcor's gross revenues rose to P2.76 billion in P280 million higher compared to the P2.48 billion income in April 2010," said Pagcor Chairman and CEO Cristino L. Naguiat Jr.

He said the increase in earning was the result of remarkable increases in winnings from gaming operations and other revenue sources like inbound tourist expenditures from regular and ongoing operations. "During the period in review, Pagcor's gaming income was up by P466 million while other income was better by P606 million," Naguiat said in a statement.

Pagcor's dashing performance during the first four months of its fiscal year resulted in its gaming fees to most higher collections by its mandated agencies. Total remittances from January to April 2011 reached P4.94 billion—P178 million higher than the P4.71 billion contributions made during the same period last year.

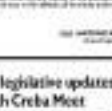
"We paid P574 million in franchise taxes to the Bureau of Internal Revenue and remitted P5.06 billion to the National Government as mandated share. Other mandated recipients which received their shares from Pagcor's income include the Philippine Sports Commission (P119 million) and president's social fund (P50 million)," Naguiat added.

Pagcor also continues to reap tremendous benefits from its privileged encouragement fund offered to gaming institutions. "In line (season) to April, Pagcor slashed its operating expenses by almost 31%, which led to savings of about P600 million. Km Rech alone, we had savings of about P140 million," Naguiat disclosed.

"The Pagcor CEO expressed confidence that through sound business policies and prudent spending, the state-run gaming agency would continue to surpass previous performance milestones. "By using sound strategies, Pagcor would be able to expand better in its mandate of helping government in its nation-building efforts," he said.

Aside on Pagcor's priority list is to assist President Benigno Aquino on its plans of its campaign to improve the quality of education in the country. One of Pagcor's major undertakings is the P-Noy Bayanihan project which seeks to reduce school functions which lags in public schools nationwide.

RGV to provide legislative updates on housing at 5th Cebu Meet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We, the family of the late

ATTY. JESUS "CHITO" VELOSO AYALA

who peacefully returned to his Creator
on April 19, 2011 at the age of 82

express our profound and heartfelt gratitude to everyone
who extended their sympathies and assistance during our time of grief.

Your presence, messages of condolence, kind thoughts and prayers were invaluable in helping our family cope with our loss.

Your generous contributions to his community building projects are very much appreciated. Through them, Chito's vision of a better Davao region will live on.

God bless you all.

His wife, **Fe**; children **Mike** and **Gauss, Lani** and **Mark, Ann Marie, Raffy** and **Ayumi**; grandchildren **Cesca, Pimee, Andress, Mayumi, Uno, Jaco, JJ,** and **Ryu**; sister **Teresita Ayala Barcelon**; and sisters-in-law, **Tita Lacambra Ayala** and **Minetta Imperial Ayala.**

Sr. Rosalina Manzano Lamadrid, KM

Eliseo M. Clamor Jr.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
– John 11:25-26

Roberto C. Bornay

Died in the loving embrace of our Lord
May 25, 2011 at the age of 69.

His bereaved wife, **Nora Meneses Bornay**; children **Leiela** and **Gil, Norby** and **Liza**, and **Roberto M. Bornay**; sisters **Virginia** and **Mercedes** (deceased); grandchildren **Nico, Patricia, Allyss** and **Echo**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until Monday, May 30. There will be Holy Mass at 10 a.m. and cremation will follow at 2 p.m. on Monday.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate;
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

Death Notice

Milagros Dungo Tuazon

Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 26, 2011 at age of 53.

Her body lies in state at the Funeraria Sandiang, Tondo, Manila.

Interment will be on May 29, 2011 at the Manila North Cemetery.

The family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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BUSINESS

Gotianun unit to venture into power generation

4 LNG plants to be built in next 5 years

By Doris C. Dumlao

GOTIANUN LNG Hilumot Development Corp. plans to develop four liquefied natural gas (LNG) power plants across the country with a total capacity of 1,000 to 1,800 megawatts over the next five years.

The project will be implemented through FDC's wholly owned subsidiary, FDC Utilities, which expects to invest about $1.6 billion to build the "greenfield" power portfolio. This was based on the estimated cost of building its LNG power plant of $1 million a MW, excluding further investment needed for gas terminals.

"The investment will form the third leg of the FDC conglomerate within the next five years," FDC president Lourdes Josephine Gotianun Yap said during the company's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday. Power is seen eventually accounting for at least 33 percent to as much as 40 percent of FDC's businesses, thereby complementing its two other core businesses of real estate (Filinvest Land Inc.) and banking (Sun Rise Bank).

Apart from the "greenfield" power projects, revenues that will be built from retrofit, Gotianun Yap said the microgenerator would be interested to participate in the bidding for state-owned power generation assets to be auctioned by Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

The diversification into the power business will mark FDC's re-entry into the infrastructure and utilities business after divesting its interest in Sun Asia Power Investment in the 1990s.

The new power plants would be built in strategic sites across Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, FDC Utilities president Jesse Alcordo said. "Our target is to have the power plants we're putting up operational by 2014 to 2015," he said.

Alcordo, a veteran in the power sector, said the group decided on LNG as the fuel for its upcoming power plants because it was a more efficient and environment-friendly option. The LNG-fueled plants, he said, would have low carbon dioxide emissions. While LNG itself would be slightly more expensive than coal, he said the capital cost to put up an LNG-fired plant would be much lesser at around $1 to $1.1 million a MW.

The investment in new power plants would be the first phase of FDC's diversification into infrastructure and utilities, Alcordo added. The second phase would be the distribution of clean gas to fuel the transport sector like buses, which he said should help in preserving the environment for the long run.

Alcordo said FDC was in the final stages of acquiring the sites needed to build the power plants while gas supply contracts should be firmed up by June.

The power projects are in anticipation of a projected surge in electricity demand across the country. He said Luzon would likely have a power supply shortage by 2013 to 2014 while Mindanao was also in need of additional capacity.

Megaworld launches 6th Greenbelt project

TEODORO ALBERTO Tan-led Megaworld Corp. has rolled out a P2.5-billion residential tower project in Makati City to sixth condominium building in the upscale Greenbelt area.

The new project, Greenbelt Hamilton, is a 31-story tower that will rise on Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, a short walk from the upscale Greenbelt 5 mall and the corporate offices along Ayala. The residential units are expected to be handed over to buyers by 2Q'16.

Greenbelt Hamilton, which was launched Thursday night, is a modern skyscraper designed in shades of blue and white, matching the sky it offers a total of 435 studio, executive studio and two-bedroom suites. Most units feature balconies.

Prices start at P2.9 million for a 28.3-square-meter studio unit with balcony, P4.3 million for a 41-sqm executive studio and P5.7 million for a 54.6-sqm two-bedroom unit with balcony.

Megaworld continues to offer affordable payment schemes as monthly amortization starts at a low P12,000 for a studio and P30,000 for a two-bedroom unit.

"We couldn't have chosen a better venue/ better to launch this project due to the massive development in the Philippine economy. Real estate remains one of the economy's growth drivers, and projects such as Greenbelt Hamilton will certainly boost business activity in the Financial district," Megaworld vice president for marketing and project head Clifford Legaspi said.

Legaspi said in an interview that Megaworld was targeting to sell all the residential units available in Greenbelt Hamilton, the company's 11th residential tower in Makati, within the next seven years.

Given the project's prime location, Megaworld would be targeting "doctors, executives, entrepreneurs, young professionals and investors" for Greenbelt Hamilton, Legaspi said.

He said superior location and easy financial scheme were the biggest selling points of Megaworld's projects in Makati. His group's biggest competition, Legaspi said, would likewise be other sales groups within Megaworld's offering residential units in other areas like Fort Bonifacio Global City. —Doris C. Dumlao

Foreign investments slumped in Q1

By Jacqueline M.

central bank survey also shows some easing in the confidence level, "Vitola said.

Reyinnindo J. Tolentio, director of the NSO's economic statistics office, said that FDI levels also came from a high base in 2010. "FDI levels often fluctuate, anyway unlike remittances which can sustain price hikes due to consumption demand," Tolentio said.

Manufacturing remained the top FDI recipient as it stood to receive 76.1 percent of the total approved commitments.

However, the amount of P16.8 billion intended to fund manufacturing projects was 60.9 percent lower than last year's P42.9 billion.

Trailing far behind were administrative and support service activities at P1.8 billion or 6.2 percent, and real estate activities at P1.3 billion or 4.7 percent worth of investment commitments.

Bunoga and Tolentio ventured approved by the Board in the first three months of 2011 were expected to create 41,305 jobs, or 1.3 percent higher than last year's projected employment of 40,831.

Out of the total expected jobs, 79.1 percent or 32,582 jobs would come from investments with foreign interest while the remaining 20.9 percent or 8,822 are from Filipino investors.

Mercedes-Benz takes you to the dream SLS AMG drive

"They say that when you absolutely want something, the universe will give it to you. From May 27 to 29, GATE Motors, Inc. is presenting the Mercedes-Benz All-Star Assistant 2011—where driving home a brand new Mercedes-Benz is easy with extraordinary financing packages, and getting the chance to experience the SLS AMG super sports car in Germany is within reach.

The "Emotion Tour: Spirit of the SLS AMG" experience is a stand-alone event wherein participants can personally drive the SLS AMG in the Autobahn of Germany, go on a tour around the SLS AMG factory, and visit the AMG Performance Studio and the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart.

In the tradition of offering valued clients with unique brand experiences, GATE Motors, Inc. will be flying three lucky owners to Germany to join the exclusive tour package for free, via the Dream Drive raffle promo.

In addition, five other winners will have the chance to watch Formula 1's only night race, the Singapore Grand Prix at the Marina Bay street circuit.

Visit the Mercedes-Benz showrooms in Greenhills and Global City from May 27 to 29 to avail of great financing offers, such as 20% down payment with the remaining balance at zero interest for 36 months, free 12-mos mortgage and free comprehensive insurance. To top it off, customers also receive exclusive gifts such as a free iPad 2, and stand a chance to win any of the Dream Drive tour packages with every purchase. Both showrooms are open till midnight on the last weekend.

For more information, visit http://www.mercedes-benz.com.ph

Philippine Stock Exchange

As of May 27, 2011

Currencies

May 27, 2011 Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Selling Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	43.4100	43.6600	43.4100
Japan	Yen	0.5361	0.5394	0.5361
United Kingdom	Pound	71.1600	71.5600	71.1600
Hongkong	Dollar	5.5800	5.6100	5.5800
Switzerland	Franc	50.1500	50.4500	50.1500
Canada	Dollar	44.7200	44.9700	44.7200
Singapore	Dollar	34.5500	34.7500	34.5500
Australia	Dollar	45.1400	45.3900	45.1400
Bahrain	Dinar	115.1500	115.8500	115.1500
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	11.5800	11.6500	11.5800
Kuwait	Dinar	157.1500	158.1000	157.1500
Netherlands	Guilder	23.0800	23.2200	23.0800
Thailand	Baht	1.4300	1.4400	1.4300
Qatar	Riyal	11.9200	11.9900	11.9200
EU	Euro	62.8000	63.1900	62.8000
Austria	Euro	62.8000	63.1900	62.8000
Belgium	Euro	62.8000	63.1900	62.8000
Finland	Euro	62.8000	63.1900	62.8000
France	Euro	62.8000	63.1900	62.8000
Germany	Euro	62.8000	63.1900	62.8000
Italy	Euro	62.8000	63.1900	62.8000
Spain	Euro	62.8000	63.1900	62.8000
Denmark	Krone	8.4100	8.4600	8.4100
Malta	Euro	62.8000	63.1900	62.8000
Norway	Krone	7.8000	7.8500	7.8000
New Zealand	Dollar	32.1400	32.3400	32.1400
Sweden	Krona	6.8100	6.8500	6.8100
Brunei	Dollar	34.5500	34.7500	34.5500

Source: Bankers Association of the Philippines — May 26, 2011

BUSINESS

PH growth seen to fall short of target

But BSP says economy may pick up in years ahead

By Michelle F. Remo

THE NEWS: Central Bank Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the economy would likely fall short of the government's target of 7 to 8 percent this year due to prevailing unrest in some oil-producing countries and the impact of the disasters in Japan.

"The projection (7 to 8 percent growth) was made prior to the events in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region, and the disaster in Japan," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday told reporters.

"We shouldn't be surprised if growth will be lower than the projection."

Before the political turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa and the earthquake in Japan, which triggered a tsunami and nuclear meltdown of an atomic facility, the Philippine government had said that it saw no need to change its growth target for this year.

But events overseas have since prompted the BSP to acknowledge that there could be a shortfall in growth this year.

Global oil prices have been rising due to the political unrest in the Middle East and North Africa, and this is expected to somehow dampen spending for non-oil and non-essential products.

The disaster in Japan may also lead to lower-than-expected Philippine exports this year.

Tetangco stressed, however, that the adverse impact of the events abroad would only be felt this year.

He said growth of at least 7 percent could again be attainable in the years ahead.

"The impact is on the short term; the medium and long-term projection is positive [as far as hitting the 7 to 8 percent target is concerned]," Tetangco said.

Gov't move will lead to higher fees, MPIC warns

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to acquire private investors to speed up the acquisitions of "right of way" property for infrastructure projects will lead to higher fees to be borne by consumers, Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) said.

According to MPIC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, the acquisition of "right of way," or privately owned land that has to be bought to make way for infrastructure projects—historically has been a government business.

But the Department of Justice earlier this year said that private investors would have to be the ones to pay for "right of way" in unsolicited projects.

"All we want are clear ground rules. If they want the private company to spend for the right of way, the government has to be flexible when it comes to tariffs," Pangilinan pointed out.

The D&G optimist affirmed MPIC's proposed P97 billion "commuter rail" project that will link the North Luzon Expressway and Metro Manila Skyway.

The "right of way" acquisitions will jack up the project price by another P7 billion, and this will have to be passed on to consumers through higher toll rates. The ruling will also affect infrastructure projects by other companies, Pangilinan pointed out.

"No private company will invest in a project if there are no returns," he said.

PSALM settles $18B of Napocor's debt

By Amy R. Remo

THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) has already settled $18 billion worth of debt incurred by the National Power Corp. over the past 10 years, allowing it to significantly cut electricity charges passed on to consumers.

According to PSALM, it will be able to substantially reduce Napocor's liabilities to only $3.78 billion (roughly P170 billion) by 2020, when it factors in payments from the sale of government-owned power plants, the transmission business, and contracted capacities in independent power plants (IPPs).

This means that the amount of stranded debt and contract costs that power consumers will have to shoulder through the universal charge will likely be lower than the estimated P600 billion PSALM initially sought to recover.

In a statement, PSALM claimed that if the debt of the state-owned utility firm had remained at its 2001 level of $16.39 billion, it would have easily wiped out these financial obligations by the end of 2018.

"The liabilities of Napocor, however, increased significantly after the enactment of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act because of contracted and obligations to sustain its operations," PSALM explained.

Prominent among these accountabilities is the commissioning of new IPP plants that raised its total financial obligations to $12.35 billion in 2001."

When PSALM started to implement the government's privatization program, it claimed that it had to resolve various plant-specific activities to prepare the plants for a smooth auction and to make them more attractive to investors.

Thus, the privatization program fully got underway only in 2008. At the same time, Napocor had to incur new loans to maintain operations of the plants under its portfolio, PSALM pointed out.

"Through the years, Napocor continued to operate at a loss because the regulated power rates were not indicative of the true cost of power production. Thus, Napocor resorted to massive borrowings in the years both the actual and the projected shortfall from its operations," PSALM said.

PSALM records showed that Napocor's operational losses from 2001 to 2010 amounted to $6.8 billion, embodying debt and IPP contracts, because of subsidized and regulated rates. The commissioning of the new IPP plants, on the other hand, amounted to $3.2 billion.

As of end-2010, PSALM said proceeds from the sale of power assets had reached $10.65 billion. Of this amount, $4.05 billion had already been collected and used to pay off $4.84 billion worth of Napocor's debt.

BDO expects 19% rise in net profit this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S largest lender Banco de Oro Unibank expects net profit this year to hit a record P30.3 billion, about 19 percent higher than that of the previous year, on the back of higher interest and fee-based earnings.

BDO also hopes to launch in a few weeks its offering of subordinated notes valued at around P5 billion, BDO president Nestor Tan yesterday said. This is part of the bank's P15 billion tier 2 bond-raising scheme for the next 12 months.

Several banks (Security Bank and HSBC were mandated to arrange the first tranche of the tier 2 offering, Tan said.

In a briefing ahead of the bank's annual stockholders' meeting, Tan said a diversified and sustainable income stream should fuel the bank's growth this year. The sustained growth is not unusual and fee-based income is seen to compensate for the expected decline in trading gains.

BDO's lending portfolio this year may expand at a moderate pace. In 2010, gross customer loans expanded by 15 percent to P421.5 billion.

The bank's consolidated resources hit the P1 trillion mark at end-2010, the first Philippine bank to reach this milestone.

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Editor Cesar D. Hangosang

SCIENCE/HEALTH

What our overworked liver is dying to tell us

By Charles E. Bukot

THE LIVER is the second largest organ in our body second only to our skin. It's one of the most complex organs and it is responsible for almost totally functions broken down harmful substances including drugs and alcohol, processes many products from the blood, stores nutrients and hormones, produces chemical levels in the body, and even kills germs that come the body through the intestines.

With such crucial roles, it's not surprising that our liver is also built to be tough as well as resilient—in fact, it even has a remarkable power to regenerate itself.

But the liver can only take so much abuse.

Fatty liver

Among the things doctors are advising us to be watching out for in the development of fatty liver, which is the initial stage prior, either to the buildup of excess fat in the liver cells.

While people with fatty liver may not feel any symptoms (although a few may feel tired or have some mild abdominal discomfort), such a condition should not be allowed to go unnoticed.

An unopened diagnosis of fatty liver should prompt further evaluation. The cause should be identified and remedied because it can have serious consequences. Having fat in the liver over a long period may lead to liver inflammation, hepatitis, and then to scarring (fibrosis). In some people, this can progress to a condition known as cirrhosis, which can be life-threatening," warned professor Alexander Hermoso, head of the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology of Kalaniderian's National Research Institute of Cardiology and Internal Medicine.

In addition to the well-known effects of excessive alcohol intake on the liver, he explained that doctors should also be aware of the increasing prevalence of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in certain groups of individuals.

Most common

Moreover said the NAFLD is now the most common liver disease in the world, affecting 10-15 percent of the population, especially in countries with higher rates of obesity and notable number of high glycemic index foods (for example, carbohydrate-rich foods that are broken down quickly into glucose).

The NAFLD is a name for a wide range of conditions characterized by the buildup of fat in the liver cells of people who drink just a few alcoholic beverages.

Moreover said people most at risk of NAFLD are those who are

MIRASSOU confirming with Quintos before a morning visit the country's liver experts. RAMON MUÑOZ

obese, have diabetes and insulin resistance, high blood pressure, or have too much cholesterol and triglycerides in their blood.

"Over time, the NAFLD, could lead to considerable morbidity and mortality. Those in the liver get inflamed and could later progress to scarring of the liver and eventually, cirrhosis, which represents an irreversible damage to the liver and is the most severe stage to the entire NAFLD spectrum," Hermoso explained.

He added that several studies have shown that weight loss and physical activity—like conversions of a healthy lifestyle—have a specific role to NAFLD, preventing disease progression and reducing the burden of the disorder.

Hermoso added that there are emerging treatments for NAFLD, notable of which are the phospholipids.

"They facilitate metabolism of normal fats and cholesterol. They have anti-inflammatory and antioxidative properties. They likewise promote regeneration of liver cells," he explained.

He also touched the fact that pure de-oiled phospholipids from soya beans are now available here (Essentiale Forte N) saying the product should not be considered as mere dietary supplement but an effective drug.

Essentiale Forte product manager Mindy Quadro explained that Filipinos could supplement their lifestyle changes with the phospholipids as it is one of the most well established hepatoprotectives—liver protectors—considering it is backed by numerous researches and studies that support its effectiveness in stopping fatty liver from progressing any further.

Battling the bulges with 'Club New You'

By Tonette L. Lanuzo

LOSING THOSE extra pounds isn't just about vanity anymore. Obesity brings with it such chronic ailments as hypertension, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases.

Considered as the second leading cause of preventable deaths, obesity actually contributes to at least 2.8 million deaths around the world each year, according to data provided by Pfizer Philippines.

And it should be a cause for alarm for us. Worse, an obesity has started to become more prevalent in the country.

In 2008, it was reported that almost 27 percent or 11.2 million adults were overweight, even with another 4.1 percent or 1.7 million more categorized as candidates for obesity. Those latest figures reflected more than 136 percent increase compared to the 1998 figures.

Although more Filipinos are aware of this so-called "epidemic" and are willing to do their utmost to lose those extra pounds, not all have been successful in their battle against the bulges.

Combat obesity

This, according to Bristol-based management Gabby Gonzalez, is the reason that they are launching the "Club New You."

"We're launching the new program that we hope will help Filipinos combat obesity and being overweight effectively. It's for local-set carers, to support them in their journey to weight loss," explained Gonzalez in an interview with the bayanan.

THE LAUNCH of Club New You saw members of the media dance the pounds away in an innovative and fun workout.

"With Club New You what we really want to promote is that if people sign up they will be able to find new routines of themselves by getting overall health by using festival and by participating in our activities. We believe that the club will really help individuals lose weight and be better versions of themselves," Gonzalez added.

According to him, a number of benefits members who would sign up.

"Upon signing up, our health consultants will check on members every so often to monitor their progress. The consultants will also offer dietary and exercise solutions and also motivate them to stick to the festival regimen. The website would provide highly relevant articles, videos which, we believe will be very useful for our members," he explained.

"We are tying up with certain partner establishments (gyms, restaurants and retail shops) around the country which will give exclusive perks to our club members," Gonzalez added.

Asked how one can sign up, Gonzalez said there are actually several ways to register. "You can do it by simply filling out a registration form from our partner clothes, drug stores, cuisine (restaurant promotions), or through the Internet hotline. So everyone is entitled to join, males and females," he said.

Weight-loss product

To date, featuring the only weight-loss pill, which has been proven to provide effective weight management or value.

"Essentiale is the weight-loss product that has been subjected to the most number of clinical trials and those studies have shown that Essentiale is able to help one lose weight. It also reduces the risk of high blood, diabetes and other diseases," Gonzalez noted.

"It's been originally registered as an orlistat-based program, as it has gone through the regular process of clinical trials and clinical development proving efficacy and safety," he added.

Although festival can be a good partner in losing those extra pounds, Gonzalez was quick to add that in the end, losing weight still also needs one's discipline and determination to pursue dieting and exercise.

Gonzalez takes this tag to after our loss of each meal daily. Individuals aged 12 and above can use the pill-app to lose in four years, depending on the individuals' desired weight target.

Saving limb and life from PAD

MEDICAL FILES
Rafael Castillo

THIS WEEK, I attended the joint meeting of the Asian Pacific Society of Vascular Diseases, Philippine Heart Association, Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society and the Philippine Vascular Society.

The APAVF-PHA-PLAS-PVM meeting featured an peripheral arterial disease (PAD) which, many of the lawyers and local lecturers agreed, is a highly prevalent, but sadly underrecognized and undertreated cardiovascular problem in the Philippines and worldwide.

When one develops PAD, the commonest—usually the legs—don't get enough blood supply to keep up with the oxygen demand. The PAD patient may complain of leg pain when walking (intermittent claudication).

The symptoms may include muscle pains or cramping in the legs or arms that's triggered by activity, such as walking or running, but disappear after a few minutes of rest. The it is similar to the chest pains (also caused by clogged arteries) in the heart.

The location of the leg pain depends on the location of the narrowed artery in the leg. "Calf pain is most common," said cardiologist Jamil Carandang, specialist Dr. Edward Jones, former MVPI president.

Claudication

The severity of intermittent claudication varies widely. Some people may have only discomfort while others may have debilitating pain which hinders them from doing any activity. They may be basically disabled because of the pain as they'd rather just rest or lesions tend to subside.

As it gets worse, the claudication pain starts and may happen even at rest. The pain may be so intense to disrupt sleep. Some can feel temporary relief by hanging the legs over the edge of the bed or walking around. The sores, lesions, finish discoloration and subsequently blackening of the legs appears, and these are likely to become gangrenous already.

If blood supply is not rapidly restored, after leg muscles and tissues die requiring amputations, or else the infection might creep into the blood stream and put the patient's life in peril. So many doctors' chance to save the patient rather than this limb by cutting off the gangrenous leg, explained Dr. Brian Villanueva, vascular surgeon from the Philippine Heart Center.

When one walking around with PAD, and realizing they have it. Then they can actively set up leg pains and weakness may be attributed to something else other than PAD. Most unfortunately, some only learn that they have PAD already when they develop leg gangrene and need major or acute amputation. If one hereditarily and dynamically takes one's birth and life finding out early if he or she has PAD.

Aside from claudication, other symptoms of PAD include leg numbness, weakness, coldness in the leg or foot, especially when compared with the other leg, sores on the foot, feet or legs that won't heal; a change in the color of the legs: hair loss or slower hair growth on the feet and legs; absent growth of the toenails; shiny skin on the legs or pales or a weak pulse in the legs or feet; and erectile dysfunction in men.

Smoking is the single most important factor which causes it, and there is an estimated 17 million Filipinos who smoke. Other risk factors are diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol problems and genetic predisposition. Essentially, the same risk factor that cause heart attacks and strokes are contributory to causing PAD.

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the heart and cerebrovascular disease (CVD) is the brain are basically just and parcel of the same problem in the arteries. The common mechanism is a narrowing of the arteries due to the atherosclerotic deposition of fatty materials leading to poor blood circulation in the area, literally starving that part and causing it to die or develop one "infarction."

Early diagnosis

Dr. James said the foreign speakers in the past PAD meeting were joined by the local experts including Jocelyn Reidy he said Tess Alcala, who are recognized authorities on PAD, said they all agreed that early diagnosis of these patients is necessary to prevent worsening of the condition.

Usually PAD is also associated with significant disease in the heart and brain arteries as well, meaning that someone has PAD can alert the physician that the patient is likely to have CAD and CVD as well. In fact, PAD patients die more due to heart attacks and strokes rather than to PAD-related causes such as leg gangrene and amputation.

As in the treatment of diseases of the heart and brain arteries, one can successfully prevent and treat PAD by quitting smoking, exercising and eating a healthy diet.

PAD screening

The important thing to remember is that if one experiences leg pain, numbness or other symptoms, one should consult a doctor, lightly or else since there is just like to attribute or as a normal part of aging.

Even in the absence of symptoms, one should be screened for PAD if the following is present:

- Age is 70 years or older;
- One is over 50 years old with a history of diabetes or smoking;
- Younger than 50 years but with diabetes and other PAD risk factors, such as hypercholesterolemia, obesity or abdominal problems.

An early step in the doctor could save one's limb, and possibly one's life.

Yoga for people living with HIV

By Ernesto Cena

MANDAUE S YOGALIST Ashan Jayasur recently revealed his observation over yoga, how it helped solve his bodyless issues and how it sculpted his body for a group here in Manila, yoga interventions than just a work out. To them it is a community where common advocacy focuses on helping people with HIV.

Buzzword

Founded by yoga instructor Thavanasan Gu-Dipping and Paula Lovanido who once dreamed of bringing yoga particularly to the HIV community, Yoga for Life became the buzzword in town last year. With the help of HOPE yoga, Pantranio and over volunteers, Chairwoman and Paula were able to start yoga classes initially with 14 students.

"The first months were like walking on thin ice as we wanted to get people to open up to either yoga or the HIV issue. But as we settled. After almost a year, the Yoga for Life community has grown to over 300 members holding bi-monthly classes in Ortigas and Makati.

As a community of people living with HIV and three voted "negative" but likewise support the cause, TFL seeks to send the strong message that "there is no place for fear, stigma and discrimination in our world."

The members of people getting HIV infections is troubling shockwaves of shame the world over. In the Philippines alone, an estimated 9,000 cases, extrapolated and it is the dominant mode of HIV and AIDS in their lives, as we can these yoga techniques to help alleviate these and bring them back to a peaceful, happy and optimistic positive state of mind." Go Gipong Kho the lessons.

Because HIV attacks the immune system, people who developed AIDS become vulnerable to opportunistic infections. TFL puts people on certain yoga poses that are especially beneficial in boosting the immune system, minimizing the thyroid gland and detoxifying the body, particularly toxicities and fat pose. All breathing techniques are beneficial to the immune system, especially the Ujjai breath ("victorious" breath"). Go Gipong said.

"Meditation is good for everyone, especially those living with HIV, as it helps control emotional mind. People living with HIV need to adopt a healthy lifestyle both physically and mentally. Healthy diet, regular exercise, stress-free environment and avoidance of toxins like alcohol, cigarettes and caffeine can still strengthen the immune system," the facilitator said.

Part of the TFL program is discussion on relevant issues such as safe sex and positive prevention using the yoga philosophy.

The TFL community provides a safe haven for people living with HIV because they do not need to disclose their status to become members, the founders said. Members are welcomed and treated with the same respect and love as anyone else. The group relies on the support of private and public donors to cover for their expenses and from the received "suggested donation" of P200 from students who join their classes.

All the regular yoga classes that TFL conducts are open to anyone who supports the HIV and AIDS cause. There is no registration fee to be a member. Schedules are available at www.yogaforlife.ph.

YOGA enthusiasts gathered last week at Shoreline 1 park for an invigorating session. The event marked the start of the International AIDS Candlelight memorial.

Upscale condo shows way to Zen lifestyle

By Theresa S. Santamiego

THE GROWING number of health-conscious Filipinos has just added another consideration in buying a condo: well-seen and being, while living in the lap of luxury.

And looking for that perfect place in Makati City may not be such a good idea, right? After all, who would want to live in the middle of the busiest business district in the country when all you want is "serenity, tranquility and simplicity" at the end of the day?

Federal Land, the real estate unit of the Ty family's Philwebank Group, and Orix Corp. of Japan chose to offer such, with its latest upscale development, The Grand Midtown.

Japanese design

In an exclusive interview with Inquirer Property, Dennis Lim, senior vice president for sales and marketing of Federal Land, explained that they incorporated Japanese design to imbibe the art of Zen living as well as green architecture that would also benefit its occupants.

Nestled in the so-called Zen lifestyle setting, the 38-story twin-tower condominium development in Makati City offers relaxing amenities including a Japanese Zen garden on every floor, but poised on the lobby, 20-meter lap pool, 500-meter jogging path, children's wading pool, outdoor children's playground, game and entertainment room, Atrium corner and a multipurpose hall.

The upscale development also boasts of state-of-the-art security system that will ensure the safety of its occupants. Lim further added that each floor, which has a dark gray tone, has been designed in a way that it could allow natural light and ventilation, unlike in most Makati buildings where you already see the coats left and right as soon as you step out of the elevator.

Solar energy is also harnessed and used to power the lighting requirements of The Grand Midtown's common areas, Lim said. And true to the art of Zen minimalism, The Grand Midtown's lobby—though grand—is not lavish. In fact, Lim explained, most of Federal Land developments would not use lavish lobbies as the company tries to cut the maintenance costs in the long run.

Different units

According to Lim, potential homebuyers can choose from the different units that could suit one's lifestyle. The Grand Midtown offers studio (39 sqm), which is suitable for professionals or the young couples; one-bedroom (51-56 sq m); two-bedroom (107-90 sq m); and three-bedroom (141-146 sq m) units, which are priced between P4 million and P15 million.

Lim disclosed that a lot of the studio and one-bedroom units have already been sold.

"Let's say that in one Legazpi Village facility, fully furnished, is P13,000 a month—that's an unsellable, and if they [we upscale developers could offer that. Maybe other developers could offer something similar but at a higher price to a smaller unit size," Lim said.

ARTIST'S perspective of the porte cochere

"We also offer friendly payment terms, we have bank financing and we endorse our clients to our partner banks," Lim shared.

He explained that Federal Land, compared to its competitors, can offer more in terms of buyer-assist cars, better facilities for both the amenities area and the units.

And with such a grand development, of course, one would not expect anything less when it comes to tenant's security. Each tenant, according to Lim, will have his/her personal access card key which would limit the movement of the assigned floor, parking, security levels and first-ever residential floor.

"CCTVs will be installed not just in the elevators and lobby area but in all floors and common areas so that everything will be captured. It would also feature a porte cochere, which is not common in other developments. This ensures ensures that they need not be dropped off on the side streets and there will be more privacy as people from street level would not see the tenants," Lim noted.

Among those using features, The Grand Midtown will be a of a concealed piping system that assures uninterrupted water supply should other units need to undergo plumbing work. The companies working on this joint-venture project also ensure that they strictly followed the building code, as well all other projects.

Slated for 2013, the towers are expected to be turned over by December 2012.

'There's a farm in everybody's heart'—Ocampo

THE IMPRESSIVE Capilla de Bagumbayan Corazon is an open-air circular chapel designed by the renowned Bernardo + Architects.

RAC-RACAL San Benito is rumored to be the first residential resthome estate development in the country with all the trappings of organic living, and screw-friendly community.

By Norman Cura

HARD ECONOMY are becoming a lot among retirees and investors these days. Reasons point to a more or, better, peaceful and healthier years of life settling in an organic and holiday farm, others simply enjoy the laid-back business that they'll have from retirement years on.

Take for example Hacienda San Benito, an expansive property in San Benito, Lipa City, and touted to be the first residential wellness community development in the country with all the trappings of organic living, and an eco-friendly community.

Owned and developed by Milton Development Corp., the hacienda is proudly a Filipino venture which sports the "real Deal" theme sitting on a 22-hectare land at the foot of Mount Makiling.

"There's a farm in everybody's heart," said Betty Ocampo, president of Milton, in a corner tour with members of the press in the hacienda that is considered one of the nearest farm estates to Metro Manila.

Investing in farm estates

"With the pandemic now, people are living in a fast-paced lifestyle that usually leads to various sickness and illnesses. The baby boomers (65 years and up) are now more conscious about living a healthy lifestyle," said Ocampo, who believes that people should take a closer look at investing in farm estates.

As part of the hacienda living, lot owners in Hacienda San Benito are encouraged to preserve organic farming and live the "healthy" lifestyle. Each lot has double backyard for farming. Tenants could also raise poultry, goats, even horses themselves, or have them under the care of hacienda's farmers for a fee.

Officials said prices of lots inside Hacienda San Benito are competitive with condo units in Manila. Then investors are now eyeing the country's Filipino workers and urbanites who want a good investment or a certain home and feel far away from the city.

Closest lot to cold climate all year round, Lipa City is the perfect location for the hacienda as it is the third coldest city in the Philippines (with an altitude of 1,020 feet above sea level, Milton officials said. It is also dubbed as "The Home of the Philippines" because of the number of churches, cathedrals and retreat houses situated in the city.

To complete the country feel, Hacienda lot owners can boast of the Lipa's huge signature lime panels, lechonan and the Don Bernie commercially integrated farm named "Farm Original" which grows organic herbs, vegetables, fruits and ornamental plants. It is also home to boer goats and horses, carabao, donkeys and free-range chicken, Japanese koi, and even ostriches. If the hacienda endeavor is to avoid plans called for in the city, Milton did where farmers and homeowners can bring their farm products for trade and customers.

For the art lovers, the community will feature the works of some of the country's top architects and designers like Francisco Mañosa (architect behind the Cultural Center of the Philippines), Ed Calma (architect), Jaime Honrubia (architect) and designer Tony Fostanes. Already, Hacienda San Benito prides itself with the spectacular Capilla de Sagrado Corazon, an open-air circular chapel designed by the renowned Bernardo + Architects.

The hacienda recently unveiled its centerpiece named Terrazas de Bambu billed to be a one-of-a-kind organic dining destination in the country with chef Teresa Lobis at the helm. The British chef has more than 10 years of experience working for some of Prince Bernardotte's fine-dining restaurants, and the British and Libran resident. She specializes in healthy and wellness cuisines.

Terrazas de Bambu serves the world-famous tasting bambu or the Philippine Hibiscus and the delectable Malapeño Sisig from the Tasi Lobis. The restaurant is open to the public but prior reservation must be made.

Stay natural, organic

"The premise of Terrazas de Bambu is to offer an natural and organic as possible with ingredients locally produced and harvested from the hacienda," said Chef Teresa, who herself bought a piece of land in the hacienda because she "fell in love with the place."

The restaurant is an eco-friendly structure with gracious air flowing in and out of the small open Bambu to wonder that windows and its strategic location overlooking the farmlands and emerald pools at the back.

On top of Terrazas de Bambu, visitors can also make good investment from renting livestock or farming in their backyards. Those, who do not have prior farm management experience, will be assisted by a cooperative in making the most out of their lands. Also ensuring productivity and profitability. As lot owners, everyone will automatically become members of the cooperative with shares depending on their lot sizes. The cooperative also offers banking services for the owners' farm and livestock property.

TERRAZAS de Bambu is billed to be a one-of-a-kind organic dining destination in the country.

Geo-Estate's rather unique business philosophy is what makes The Beacon a success

FRANCISCO H. Lirasan III

Aside from its superb lifestyle amenities and good location, The Beacon towers-thebeacon.com.ph) is said to be one of Makati's most sought after projects, a proven investment that indeed, the people behind the project have deep business foresight.

The difficult beginnings . . .

From page B6

LIVING walls help dissipate heat.

Tedrallo says lightweight planting systems

Another cool is more affordable Bangkal 2 (short for Barkong Kalikasan or Nature Park) project ranges from P2,900 to P3,200 per sq m. Bangkal 2 is recommended for commercial units like the top of elevator and garages. Bangkal still be installed soon in the Mind Museum or Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Bangkal projects ranges from P2,800 to P3,000 per sq m.

Do you have suggestions that would make homes and buildings "green"? E-mail the author at mdizon@inquirer.com.ph.

Lito Cesar D. Magpantay
PROPERTY

The difficult beginnings of green roofs, walls in PH

By Tessa S. Salazar

IT'S NOT about painting your walls and roofs the color green. It's about making them environmentally sound and ecologically active. "Green" roofs and walls are catching on fast in the booming high-rise and condominium markets in the developed world. However, the same trend cannot be said in the Philippines.

Antonio Trabalo, chief executive officer of landscape contractor Cypress Resources Inc., observes that green wall landscaping is still very much in its infancy here.

"It has not yet reached the stage of Singapore and Hong Kong where vertical gardens are mainstream ideas. However, with a lot of high-rise condominiums being built now, I think vertical gardens provide a practical solution to tight spaces," he explained.

There are only a few projects featuring green walls and roofs in the Philippines, but a number of suppliers are making this option more accessible to home owners, landscapers and environment enthusiasts.

Jose M. Javellana Jr., president of green roof consultant Spacecare Inc., told Inquirer Property there are only three companies that he knows of that have the knowledge in the new roof garden system technology.

Green roofs, or garden roofs, and walls are especially advantageous in tropical climates, for the following reasons:

1 They provide fire-resistant heat insulation and cold insulation, with good storm management capabilities. According to Javellana, garden roofs are capable of storing water, therefore helping minimize flooding in the streets. Garden roofs also help prevent the "heat island effect". In urban centers, conventional roofs, whether concrete or steel, generate or reflect heat to neighboring buildings, thereby inducing the heat island effect.

2 They improve air quality in the immediate area. Trabalo said the many benefits of having green walls include the reduction of the ambient temperature of the area, as plants absorb heat, rather than heat being reradiated by a concrete surface; they also improve the air quality around the area as plants filter air pollutants.

3 They are aesthetically pleasing. Trabalo said that the type of plants and flowers used in the green wall adds beauty to the place.

4 They are conducive to health. Some homeowners are now planting vegetables, herbs and other edible plants in their vertical gardens, Trabalo added.

5 They provide habitats to wildlife, and minimize erosion damage to buildings. Javellana said tests would show that even if only 50 percent of a roof deck is planted, one would get the benefits of heat reduction. He added that in some building-zoning systems, a 60- to 70-percent planted area roof garden is regarded as a replacement of the habitat destroyed by the building's footprint.

He added that executed correctly, a green roof should be able to store up to 55 liters of water per square meter, have excellent storm-water management system, be leak proof, lightweight and require low maintenance.

6 Green roofs and walls provide opportunities for special plants, making it possible to create instant landscapes, particularly in urban, congested areas with no gardens.

Trabalo said special plants made specifically for green walls are now being used as they produce an instant landscape, compared to climbing plants that need time to grow and cover the wall. Lightweight planting medium is also used to lessen the weight of the planters.

7 Roof gardens are leak-free, lightweight and low maintenance.

The major problems that hounded the roof gardens of yesteryears were water leaks, dirt and mud, root attack and root penetration into the structure, and flooding. Mud would usually find its way to the drain systems and clog them, thereby clogging the floor drains and preventing water from draining out.

This is no longer the case, Javellana said. He added that Daiku, for instance, is already leak-free, lightweight or structurally friendly, and has low maintenance. The oldest Daiku roof garden in the Philippines is already almost 14 years old, located at the Royal Castle of Blackwell Residences.

8 Roof and wall gardens are easier to maintain. Trabalo said a better perspective would be to look at walls as a garden. Any garden would need maintenance. If you don't have space for a typical garden then a green wall is a good option for a homeowner.

Trabalo said that before jumping into the green wall trend, people need to take into consideration several factors to make sure that its benefits far outweigh the cost of installation and maintenance.

These considerations are:

+ Use of the wall. Will the wall be used primarily for aesthetics, or do you need more security and privacy? Will you use it to

THE DIFFICULT BE

LIVING, breathing walls for health

GREEN walls help lessen pollution

Pag-Ibig law paves way to fulfilling OFWs' dreams of owning a home

By Joel Y. Nigos

One of the primary reasons why Filipinos opt to work abroad is to fulfill their dream of having their own home. With most of our countrymen finding it hard to save even for that small house and lot since making both ends meet with their measly income is already difficult enough (even Filipinos here only make the mandated minimum wage daily!), they resort to flying overseas since jobs there pay much much more. A higher-paying job would certainly provide an OFW enough cash to save for that dream home.

To assist the OFWs in this endeavor, RA 9679 or the Home Development Mutual Fund Law of 2009 was enacted which makes overseas Filipino workers to be a member of the Pag-Ibig Fund or the Home Development Mut ual Fund. One of the distinct features of this new law is the OFW's employer is required to pay his equivalent share to an OFW's Pag-Ibig premium which is equivalent to 2 percent of his monthly income. With Pag-Ibig membership, OFWs can now also easily get a housing loan from Pag-Ibig.

According to the implementing rules and regulations of RA 9679, all Filipinos who will be working overseas – whether hired-based or seafarer – are required to register with Pag-Ibig as a member before they leave to their respective destinations. All overseas Filipino workers who are already abroad can register with the various Pag-Ibig posts on the country where they are currently posted.

Sea-based workers are also covered by this law. The manning or employment agency which hired him would be his employer, thus, would be responsible for his contribution share to the Pag-Ibig premium.

Benefits

One of the benefits OFWs can get from this mandatory membership is that they are able to save through their monthly contributions which also serve for them dividends. According to data provided by Pag-Ibig, an OFW can raise P202,760 from individual runs of 5 years or just by contributing P500 a month.

Of course, acquiring their desired house would not be far behind as a wide range of loan amounts are available for them. The loan amount is dependent though on how much their monthly contribution is. A monthly amortization for a housing loan from Pag-Ibig can be as low as P599.55 for a P100,000 loan with an interest of 6 percent. OFWs can even get up to P3 million loan to purchase their various loan requirements whether it is a developed/finished dwelling unit, a townhouse, a condominium unit, a warehouse, for home renovation, or to refinance an existing housing loan which an OFW has obtained from a bank or a financing institution. Pag-Ibig also provides short-term or multi-purpose loans.

Prior to the enactment of RA 9679, overseas Filipino workers can register as a Pag-Ibig member only under the Pag-Ibig Overseas Program (POP). This is a voluntary savings scheme for Filipinos abroad.

PAG-IBIG: TABLE OF LOAN AMOUNT AND RESPECTIVE MONTHLY AMORTIZATION

LOAN AMOUNT	ANNUAL INTEREST RATE	MONTHLY AMORTIZATION	NET DISPOSABLE INCOME
P 100,000	6%	P 599.55	P1,666.66
200,000	6%	1,199.10	2,857.75
300,000	6%	1,798.65	4,496.62
400,000	6%	2,398.24	6,663.95
500,000	7%	3,329.51	9,249.98
600,000	7%	3,991.81	9,870.54
700,000	7%	4,997.72	11,843.78
750,000	7%	4,959.77	17,474.42
800,000	8%	7,317.91	18,204.79
900,000	8%	8,232.65	20,481.64
1,000,000	8%	8,147.39	22,668.48
1,100,000	8%	10,982.13	25,155.39
1,200,000	8%	10,796.87	27,442.18
1,300,000	10.5%	13,691.61	29,730.03
1,400,000	10.5%	13,505.35	32,015.88
1,500,000	10.5%	14,400.83	36,969.67
1,600,000	10.5%	12,721.00	36,202.72
1,700,000	10.5%	15,556.57	38,870.42
1,800,000	10.5%	16,465.31	41,160.27
1,900,000	10.5%	17,380.05	43,450.12
2,000,000	10.5%	18,294.79	45,739.98
3,000,000	11.5%	28,708.74	74,271.08

Pag-Ibig Fund's loanable amounts and their respective monthly amortizations and net disposable income payable in 30 years.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Siblings stick together with My Super Circle Plan

It's the middle of summer and children are out on recess for the Undas/All Saints's weekend, everyone is off during their own thing. Nonetheless, one probable still working mornings while you and other siblings are at the beach, at the mall, at the movies, or just hanging with friends. If you're looking for ways to keep family ties bound and keep them in during the busy vacation season, look no further than My Super Circle Plan from Globe.

My Super Circle Plan is the first ever fully-customizable family plan that gets you the unlimited services and gadgets that you love, as members and seasons can easily add, toggle, or trim just P1,688 a month, you and your siblings can stay together with free postpaid lines, three hot new phones and three unlimited services to keep you going proceeding days.

With My Super Circle Plan, keeping tabs on your spending is a breeze because you'll share a single postpaid bill for all three lines. It's a great way to share Mom and Dad that you can be every bit responsible as they want you to be.

You can also pick the gadget you want. The spendthrift Samsung Corby Pro allows those phone with an Megapixel camera for almost-summer pictures. I'm able for chilling on the beach, and Bluetooth and Wi-Fi connectivity is also connected. The fantastic of comes with a Qwerty keyboard that makes it a snap to post updates or send emails. And the BlackBerry Curve 8520 is the fashion forward favorite that comes in purple, red, white or black, and has awesome favorite BlackBerry Messenger app, to keep you constantly hooked up long after summer has gone.

And these thought are constantly get one type of on service, then again. My Super Circle Plan gives you unlimited bunch to choose from. Select Super Money making texting and calling on family and friends on Globe and TM. Try Super Text and prepaid calling plans. Get in with unlimited on their landlines. And to commemorate the togetherness is just a little too much go for Super Text. But only unlimited all text worth starting offer that will let your look up with pals from across all text-worthy. This can't even be all. Control online. Because My Super Circle Plan lets you change your unlimited every month. And if all that unlimited goodness still isn't enough, you can boost your plan with more extras and also My Super Extra Gift and My Super Time.

Marites Sauler, Head of Globe Postpaid, explains, "My Super Circle Plan is designed for parents and siblings who want to stay connected. We get the benefits of one monthly fee for three postpaid lines in one value-packed plan, and you also get the flexibility to design your plan just the way you like it, by choosing your unlimited voice, postpaid and text, your add-on, with My Super Circle Plan, your whole family can get Globe-connected easily and affordably with a plan that fits them perfectly."

Take sibling bonding to the next level with My Super Circle Plan. Bring on the family fun, and keep the family ties strong this summer and beyond. Join the Circle today by calling the Globe Sales Hotline at 8897 8000.

Pinay nominated top entrepreneur in Singapore

By José V. Migue

IT'S TIME once more to celebrate the success of Filipino entrepreneurs in Singapore. The Philippine Embassy in Singapore would like to announce that the search for the Outstanding Filipino Entrepreneur in Singapore (OFES) 2012 is now open for nominations.

The OFES is an annual search for Filipino entrepreneurs in Singapore who have made significant contributions to the business community in the city-state and to the Filipino community in Singapore. The search is open to all Filipino entrepreneurs in Singapore, regardless of their nationality or the size of their business.

The OFES is a way to recognize the achievements of Filipino entrepreneurs in Singapore and to inspire others to follow in their footsteps. The winners will be selected by a panel of judges who will evaluate the nominees based on their business success, their contributions to the community, and their leadership skills.

The deadline for nominations is June 30, 2012. The winners will be announced in August 2012 and will be honored at a gala dinner in September 2012.

For more information about the OFES, please contact the Philippine Embassy in Singapore at [redacted].

ANNA confers with Sen. Bongbong Marcos during their visit at Subic Inquirer DOQ PHILIPPINE

VENUS Ajao, founder and CEO of PTT Phil Consultancy Pte. Inc.

P-Noy, Domingo laud Pamilyang OFWs expo organizer

PRESIDENT BENIGNO Simeon C. Aquino III and Secretary Gregory L. Domingo of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) lauded yesterday the Pamilyang Overseas Filipino Workers Small and Medium Entrepreneurs Network Foundation Inc (Pamilyang OFWs) for organizing the Handog Kay P-Noy Jobs and Livelihood Expo 2012 (DTI 12) and the 13th Pamilyang OFWs Bikers Tour de Pinas (Bikers Tour) as nationwide expos which is slated on June 24-25 at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City.

In his message to the Pamilyang OFWs, Pres. Aquino said: "I thank the Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation Inc. for organizing this expo of more than 100 exhibitors. These are not just ordinary expos where Filipino workers can explore opportunities to make full use of their earnings and resources by engaging in profitable and worthwhile endeavors. I am certain that the opportunities available to them in this will help empower our kababayans and make them better entrepreneurs and investors and, therefore, more potent agents of change and progress."

In his message, Domingo said: "The DTI appreciates the organization's support to government's efforts to encourage more OFWs and their dependents to utilize their available hard-earned financial resources for investments in dynamic but sustainable business ventures that can eventually guarantee them a steady stream of alternative sources of income over the longer term."

Domingo also said that: "Your foundation's initiatives are congruent with the DTI's thrust to nurture budding through the development of entrepreneurs and the promotion of small and medium enterprises - all in partnership with the private sector and civic groups. By becoming entrepreneurs, OFWs and their families themselves can help create meaningful livelihood opportunities that can not only offer freedom, opportunities and better lives create employment opportunities for their fellowmen."

Pamilyang OFWs president George Arban Arriola said that the expo aims to empower the OFWs and SMMEs as well as their families through information, opportunities and benefits. It also aims to transform a majority of OFW families into community entrepreneurs.

PTT Philippines

In 2009, the founded PTT Phil Consultancy Pte. Inc. which serves as an extension of the parent Singapore firm to facilitate its business growth in the Philippines and in the region. PTT Philippines' core business is to provide jobs for Filipinos, mainly the oil and gas industry, the company is expanding into F&B, HRM and other fast growing industries.

"Our aim is also positioned in order to the Philippine economic movement which has proven to be timely. PTT Philippines has brought together a set of capabilities and cultivate management team to grow its business strategically in key market segments in government and industries. Our mission is to be a leader in technology marketing and engineering services while at the same time benefiting the people of the Philippines," she says.

PTT Philippines collaborate with international client in Singapore for major mergers and acquisitions deals in the oil and gas, power, mining, and F&B industries. It also provides career planning and architectural services for manufacturing and property development. It now also ventured into industrial lighting eternally for big customers and infrastructure development in the Philippines.

"Energy is important to the Philippines. High demand from China, India and the Asian region drive up oil prices. As the economy stays, people will seek ways to reduce energy consumption. The main reason is financial but the species of global warming and respect for the environment by reducing carbon dioxide emissions also plays a part," she explains.

She adds that in response to this, PTT Philippines has introduced a new generation of induction lamps to meet lighting requirements of rapid urbanization. "The client is no end, commercial and industrial lighting to achieve this energy is quickly recovered in less than 24 months and electricity expenses are reduced dramatically thereafter."

Moldex Realty's premium haven to charge up historic *Manila Bay*

MOLDEX executives lead the ribbon-cutting ceremonies in formally open the Grand Riviera Suites near condominium. From left: Kevin Ramos, Marina Group of Companies (MGC); AVP; Alvin Tinnirel, Marina Realty Inc (MRI); SVP; Imelda Dr. MGC director; Hey Chin, MRI president; Phyllis Sison, MGDC VP and MRM head for sales and marketing

HISTORIC MANILA Bay is set to welcome a unique residential landmark.

Rising 51 stories at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Dolor Pinera Street, the Grand Riviera Suites will offer luxurious modern contemporary condo units.

Indeed, the Grand Riviera Suites promises to be a complete urban-living destination. With exquisite units, unparalleled amenities, prime location, the promise of grand living when one can witness the changing colors of the Manila Bay skyline no matter what time of the day. Reality for more than a home, but to an investment to own tomorrow.

The Grand Riviera Suites is a high-rise residential development of unparalleled balance between historic charm and modern convenience. The historic character of the Manila Bay area will reflect in the interiors of Moldex Realty for more than a home, but to an investment to own tomorrow.

The new development is perfect for affluent individuals who want to live in an exclusive place in the middle of the city, small and well-to-do startup families wanting more out of life, businesses who want to lend a large number of workers, and even families of overseas Filipino workers, urban total nonresidents for the first quarter of 2011 already reached 84.6 billion (P300billion).

The development offers studio to 3-bedroom units with sizes ranging from 35.5 sqm to 84.00 sqm. There are prices ranges from P1.9 million to P9.22 million in price.

THE Luxuriousness of Grand Riviera Suites speaks precisely of simple space and exciting elegance.

THE Grand Riviera Suites stands out to perfect for people who want to catch up with the fast and easy lifestyle.

World famous sunset

The view from each unit is expected to be spectacular. Strategically located in the magnificent strip of Roxas Boulevard along Manila Bay, units on the western side will surely enjoy Manila's iconic spectacular sunset and the bustling activities of the area. Those facing east will appreciate the first rays of the sun as well as Metro Manila skyline.

To match the luxury of the development's location, Moldex Realty has given the Grand Riviera Suites a distinct modern contemporary architecture, which could be seen in the building facade, the pools and luxurious common areas in each of the individual dwellings complemented by magnificent views of the bay.

Characterized by classy curtain walls and a chic color scheme, the glamorous feel of Grand Riviera Suites provides a trendy feeling different from the building landscape in the Roxas Boulevard bay area.

Relaxing haven

Once inside, a relaxing haven of well-planned recreational facilities awaits residents in their sanctuary. Located at the 4th level is an almost 2,000 sqm of recreational facilities catering for both active and passive recreational activities. Apart from an outdoor swimming pool that overlooks the bay there will also be a covered lap pool, kiddie pool, children's playroom, fitness gym with shower, jogging/fitness path, SPA lounge, covered outdoor and bar area, reading lounge with open view to the Manila Bay. The Park as well as rock garden that all provide an indulging getaway experience for the leisure residents.

Also, just below the amenity level and residential floors is the Grand Riviera Suites' exclusive podium which will house the grand lobby and commercial spaces.

Wilfred Andu, this is one of the most exciting projects of Moldex Realty Inc. for over two decades. Moldex Realty Inc has transformed into luxurious quality developments from prime subdivisions to modern and classy condominiums.

The company has been a trusted name in the industry and has developed a number of residential developments which include house and lot projects in north and south Luzon (under Metrogate Communities and Heritage Residences) and vertical developments that a now completed of medium and high rise condominiums within Metro Manila.

The company currently holds the distinction of delivering its promises, earned its reputation of providing quality development with projects like the architectural beauty UNIT Building Corporate also along Roxas Boulevard and The Grand Towers along PECO in Manila.

This kind of dedication will continue to be practiced by the company moves forward with more quality projects in the future.

Those who would like to experience the lifestyle that awaits at the Grand Riviera Suites should visit the model units located at the 5th Floor in The Grand Towers along Pedro Gil cor. Taft Avenue, Manila.

For more information on Moldex Realty developments or to set an appointment to visit the Grand Riviera Suites, please call (632) 526-0078 to (63) 917.8639574 or visit www.moldex.com.ph/realty.

Filipino achieves firsts in international community

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

[OF RECOGNITION] have been awarded to Filipinos that put the country in a good light, whether it be in the realm of music, sports, or entertainment.

Perhaps it's easier to give the likes of Manny Pacquiao or Charlene Gonzalez's wins every time they achieve something on the international stage. But it never hurts to give importance as well to fellow Filipinos who are also making waves in their own right outside the country.

One worthy example is Kho de Guzman, a student pursuing a masters in Climate Change at the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University (ANU). He studies in Australia under the country's most prestigious government scholarship – the Australian Leadership Award Scholarship.

It just makes it cool the road to Australia but Kho's way to the prestigious university, Kho managed to become the first Filipino to sit in the Postgraduate Students Association of the ANU. He is also the first Filipino to be elected to office (as president for the Australian Capital Territory) of the Council of International Students Australia, the peak student body, representing all higher education international students in the country that aims to achieve cross-cultural understanding among different races.

"There, on several occasions, I heard from my professors at the ANU that the contribution of international students goes beyond the economics," he said. "Enrichment is not just a term used to refer to the tuition paid to universities but to the experiences we share both with our fellow international and local students."

Last year, at the closing of the World Youth Meeting in Bali, Indy Kho was also chosen to read the conference manifesto crafted by the more than 400 participants. He command spoke volubly over by saying: "The fair sun is in our hands, the future is ours in our hands."

With all the negative news about the country that seem to always make it in the international channels, it's always nice to hear good stories like this. After all, seeing other people's view of Filipinos little by little goes a long way.

Pag-Ibig law paves way...

Under RA 9679, all overseas Filipino workers are required to register under Pag-Ibig 2, regardless if they are POF members or not. Other POF members such as manpowers and those who are employed in other countries may register voluntarily under Pag-Ibig 2.

For overseas Filipino workers who are registered as POF member and who do not have an existing housing loan with Pag-Ibig, they can discontinue their POF membership and re-register for Pag-Ibig 2 membership instead. OFWs may opt to continue his POF membership though while re-registering for the re-quired Pag-Ibig 2 membership.

The POF TIN may be withdrawn at point of inquiry. OFW membership while for those who opt to continue both memberships, their TINs under both programs shall be kept separate. POF TIN will be released to the member upon authority of him even if his Pag-Ibig 2 membership is not yet due for release.

OFWs can register for Pag-Ibig 2 accounts by accessing at the following: (1) Pag-Ibig self-service desks at all embassies and consulates of the Philippines abroad, (2) Pag-Ibig Fund international operations group located at 6th Floor, Atrium Bldg., 181 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, (3) any Pag-Ibig branch or office anywhere in the Philippines, (4) Pag-Ibig satellite office located at the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), (5) selected banks and remittance agencies of Pag-Ibig such as PNB, Metrobank and Bloom Global Remittance Inc.

Regardless of whether an OFW stays only in one company for his/her employment abroad or he transfers from one company to another, Pag-Ibig assures OFW members that their savings are safe and will only be drawn at them within legal only under names.

PROMOTE your products and services, BOOST your sales, and EXPAND you local and international Market! Join the...

Handog hay P-Noy Jobs and Livelihood Expo 2011 (Part 2)

back-to-back with the

10th Pamilyang OFWs-MSMEs Expo

24-25 June 2011 * Philippine Trade Training Center, Pasay City

EVENT FEATURES & HIGHLIGHTS

* Local and Overseas Jobs Fair * Free Seminars on Job, Livelihood, Investment, and business opportunities * Free marketing and promotions consultancy * Launching of products & services for the OFW and MSME families * Pamilyang OFW Showbiz and Pamilyang MSMEs Showbiz Idol * Free medical and dental services * Mini-Palarong Pambansa * Raffles * Handicraft, OFWs and MSMEs Singing Idols 2011 Contest * Free overseas calls through VOIP

Jobs and Livelihood Expo in Pamilyang OFW

FIESTA ACTIVITIES (June 6-12, 2011)

* Sta. / Sto. Rosaryo Mahusay * Lady Sto. Rosaryo Mahusay * Impersonator * Dance Contest * Singing Contest * Palaro

(A street fiesta of Brgy. Barrios 668,00 st. Makati and Pamilya in Manila)

For inquiries, call: Pamilyang OFW Hall Research Foundation, Inc.

Grand Riviera Suites

Live life at the Grand Riviera Suites... a luxury within your reach, soaring in the prestigious strip of Roxas Boulevard and dramatically altering the Manila skyline.

Amenities:

- Outdoor Swimming Pool
- Covered Lap Pool
- Kiddie Pool
- Children's Playroom
- Fitness Gym with Shower rooms and Lockers
- Jogging / Fitness Path
- Table tennis / Pre-function Room
- Function Room
- Wifi Lounge Internet Area
- Recreation Room
- Covered Coffee and Tea Area
- Reading Lounge Area with WiFi
- Rock Garden
- Outdoor Wallgarden / Sea View
- Podium Garden
- Podium Lounge
- Table Tennis

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The Sta. Lucia Residenze is the newest residential community in the middle of it all, and promises to be the most luxurious and stylish address when fully built two to three years down the road

STA.LUCIA Residenze

A Whole New World in Condo Living

Imagine a home, where you can directly go and dine at your favourite Italian pizza-pasta restaurant when you get out of the door.

Or walk just a few steps to watch that blockbuster movie, and in an instant go to a sunny terrace and be in the middle of the action, while you munch your favorite popcorn. Or take a scenic and lit thru gorgeous drives you have been dreaming about, or very un-chat hometowner store to complete your outfit in that famous boutique. Or shop for your weekly stores of personal care products and snacks for your kids.

Or imagine taking a refreshing dip in the pool, after that vigorous workout at the gym. Or just walk around on that lazy Saturday or Sunday afternoon and relax in the gazebo as you read that favourite book. Or why not indulge yourself with a back massage and relax your tired feet with a foot spa, just a few more steps away.

In this place "Paradise"?

The Residence

The Sta. Lucia Residenze is the newest residential community in the middle of it all, and promises to be the most luxurious and stylish address when fully built two to three years down the road.

The Residenze shall boast of its own upscale mall, featuring prominent boutiques, specialty shops and restaurants. Resident comfort shall among one can get to learn, coffee shops and alfresco spots in the Residenze.

Or amble further, and you are in the middle of the Sta. Lucia Mall, one of Metro Manila's best shopping destinations, with its own full department store, specialty boutiques, hardware shops, personal care and pharmacy shops, internet shops, supermarket, appliance and gadget stores.

The list of masterplanning is raised by the Sta. Lucia group to this new property allowing us to break ground in the coming weeks. Because here, reconfirms that the modern day individual needs is just an easy reach away.

Live in Luxury and Style

Live in a high rise home, with breathtaking views of the metropolis and San Mateo hills or the broad expanse of city lights all around Metro Manila and transcendental at night.

Enjoy resort-style amenities like a distinctive swimming pool, gazebo and landscaped garden and walkways. Fitness facilities and other luxuries that are not present in other communities nearby.

The Sta. Lucia Residenze is the residential cluster of five towers in the future Sta. Lucia Grand, a mixed use development in Marcos Highway Cainta, Rizal that has been chosen with the Residenze.

The high rise community is set in an idyllic condominium living, with the fashionable and efficient design. It has been beautifully designed to pay homage to the stylish beauty of the cities of the Mediterranean by the topnotch architectural firm of MVJ Consultants & Associates with interior design by Scrapcorp & Partners.

On the eastern side of the Metro, an residential development could match outstanding comfort, luxury and convenience as the one-in-one Sta. Lucia Residenze.

The Newest Address to Be: Monte Carlo at the Residenze

Monte Carlo, the first of the five towers Sta. Lucia Residenze condominium complex, will rise to 16 storeys, bringing to life the ultimate energy of one of Europe's most popular tourist hotspots.

This 33-storey residential tower offers 2208 units composed of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units including a limited number of units, much less dense than the traditional cramped condominium currently being offered by other developers.

Open your windows and let Ocean recognizing the top (17th to 31st floors) with the one and two-bedroom units, and you let the breeze from the metropolis mountains in, even as your partake of the magnificent views of the hills rising on the east and the Marikina and Pasig valley in the west.

For the penthouse minded are the studio units which are located at the 3rd to 16th floors and 16 of the studio units are at the 2nd floor recreation area and have their own piece of the garden finding the economic landscaped garden episode.

The luxury Monte Carlo residents will thus have the privilege of owning the first Sta. Lucia Residenze condominium and be part of the Sta. Lucia landmark.

Superior Location and Accessibility

The Sta. Lucia Residenze is just minutes away from the LRT 2 terminal in Santolan, Pasig which connects to the EDSA MRT at Cubao, Quezon City and to the LRT 1 line that connects the Metro Manila Cubao-metro corridor Thus, offering outstanding location and accessibility:

- A short commute to the existing Santolan (Pasig City) Terminal of LRT Line 2
- Onsite utility routes to Katipunan and Cubao, Quezon City and to the business districts in Ortigas Center, Pasig and Mandaluyong and in Makati City
- Gateway to Eastern Road - Antipolo City, Taytay and San Mateo
- Universities and colleges
- Shopping centers and malls
- Hospitals and clinics
- Entertainment centers
- Churches

Monte Carlo

The sun mall at the Sta. Lucia Residenze

The pool and garden at Sta. Lucia Residenze

STA.LUCIA LAND, INC.

Sta. Lucia Land, Inc. (SLI) is a flagship company of Sta. Lucia Realty Development, Inc. (SLRDI) that develops and manages prime subdivisions, residential condominium units, office buildings and golf courses throughout the country. In more recent years, the company ventured into leisure and lifestyle projects outside of Metro Manila. SLI is currently listed and traded in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

ROYALE HOMES

Royale Homes Marketing Corporation is exclusively marketing this latest future prime residential condominium in the east. This is the company's second condominium project following the successful offering of La Breeze Tower in Quezon City which is now almost sold out and set to be turned over in June 2011. For more information, visit www.royalehomes.ph or call (02) 584-1164 or 0922-857-5870.

ROADTALK Saturday

BMW Car Club of the Philippines host Bimmerfest 2011

LAST May 21 marked the biggest Bimmerfest Car Show event ever organized by the BMW Car Club of the Philippines.

This one-day event brought close to a hundred BMW cars and motorbikes (also called Motorcycle) running up at the parking lot of Venice Piazza in McKinley Hill in Taguig City, representing the whole spectrum of BMW's production line of motor vehicles. On display were classic as well as current BMW models. This year's event was open to all BMW owners who would want to display their pride and joy for their BMW marque. This is also the first Bimmerfest event where the BMW Owners Society of Subic Bay (Boss) took part in the celebration. BMWCCP and Boss are the only two official BMW clubs in the country, both recognized by BMW AG and Asian Car Makers Corporation – the Philippines's exclusive distributor of BMW. Both clubs are also official members of the International Council of BMW Clubs.

Cars were kept clean throughout the day by Hillsborough Builders, the official detailer of Bimmerfest. Aside from the BMWs from the club members, there were exhibitors in the show offering products and services targeting the specific market of BMW owners and enthusiasts. On display and scrupulously thorough were customizations, aftermarket upgrades, car care products, brakes accessories, tyres, maintenance services and BMW lifestyle products including: Rhinoline, Carfidant, Cybertech, Rainforsun, Blade Car Shops, T-Kool Tints, Filipinas Run World, Outback, Vector Aero Mats, Dropkit Audio, Hillsborough Detailers, Pirama Flex, Sensus Bolts, BlueChrist, Midoi, Mitchtek, Brake and AWD Tech Pads, Vitaboy, gasoline and smokeless wine (sealed in a fire pyrotechnance by the Mamonkids) and Pan's Sealed Beam courtesy of San Miguel Beer as well as a fireworks show courtesy of Dragon Fireworks Inc. and Blade Car Shops.

Finally as car show doors each walked away nursing the car show competition winners of this year's Bimmerfest 2011.

Best Car in Show and Best Interior was won by Sonny Garcia's e60 5 series. Best Heritage award went to Vincent Kwok's e32 750i. Best in Exterior category was Gab Ledesma's e90 3 series. Best in Modification/Display award went to Olivier Arnaud's e46 M3 GTR 3 series. Best in Special Display was won by Bobbie Torres with his Z4. Best in Class award was in this year's event, Best in Guest Display also won by Gar Cura e90 3 series owned by Mark Angel. The Bimmerfest 2011 was made possible by Cultus with Tekton, Bridgestone Tires, Bosch, Shinco, Concept One Wheels, Grand Infinity and Grand Insurance. With special thanks to Apink Glass for sponsoring the trophies and other competition. For more information regarding the BMW Car Club of the Philippines, please visit their website at www.bmwcclub.org.ph

BMWCCP OFFICERS AND CLUB MEMBERS Shown are (front left) Dave Ramos, Sales Santos (VP-membership), Jemma Aparad (VP-membership), Mary Ann Soto (VP-events), Edric Reyes (president), Chito Ward (VP-communications), John Lucas, Jun Velasco and Rommel Dragudo.

Grand 3-Ring Motoring Event of the Year opens at the SMX

A SPECTACULAR celebration crowd awaits Metro Manila on May 26 to 29 at the SMX Convention Center with classy big shows happening simultaneously – the 20th Trans Sport Show, the 3rd Philippine Nostalgic Motor Show and the 40th Manila Sports Car Club Concours d' Elegance presented by Phoenix Fuels and touching motor show organizer, Tradeshow International Inc.

2011 marks the 20th edition of the longest running car show in the country – 20th Trans Sport Show and it is a cause for great celebration as it gathers 13 of its past line of show winners still planning and all ready for show to the delight of car enthusiasts young and old. These are the 1976 Lancia Scorpio (Best winner), 1978 Ford Model 64, 1947 BSTC, 1948 Buick Roadmaster, 1963 Jaguar XKE, 1957 Mercedes Benz 300SL Gullwing, 1957 Chevrolet Bel-Air, 1968 Ford Mustang, 1967 Toyota Corona, 1970 Lamborghini Miura, 1979 Mercedes Benz 500SEL, 2002 Scion XB and two-time over Best of Show winners: 1998 Honda Civic and a 1972 BMW 3.0CS. The also-coveted 2003 Phoenix Trans Sport Show Car will be the hottest car competing for this year as two milestone awards will be given – best of show Contemporary and Best of Show Nostalgic from over 80 competing vehicles. This year's panel of judges is headed by visiting judge from Japan, Mr. Nori Doko together with car local luminaries Eddie Soliongco, Martin Gelo Reyes, John Bautista Popoy Monroy and George Apacible.

A special vintage race car display will be the highlight of the over 3rd Philippine Nostalgic Motor Show with a showcase of motorsports classics such as: 1972 Ford Mexico, 1973 Ford Escort, 1979 Ford Escort RS, 1970s Porsche 934s, 1960 Mini's Cooper S, 1960 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint, 1965-1968, 1974 alfa Romeo GTV, 1976 Opel Kadett , 1984 Mitsubishi Lancer Turbo EX. There are racing and rally specialties for the race car enthusiasts.

Last but definitely not the least is the 4th Manila Sports Car Club Concours d' Elegance -the most prestigious car competition in the country today limited to 30 of the best restored and preserved cars in the Philippines 1979 and older competing based on year of manufacture: Veterans (up to 1949), Classic (1950-1969), Historic (1960-1969) and Modern (1970- 1979). The oldest entry is a 1918 Studebaker SF-Four. The international panel of judges is headed by Hanna Rosegrant, (Japan) together with Mitsuru Ochiai (Japan), Ernst Tanzinski (Japan) and Owen Chua (Singapore). The Concours will be closed early at 4 p.m. on May 28. Saturday to give way to an exclusive "Bowtie Dinner and Awards Ceremonies".

Special activities of the Grand 3-Ring Motoring Event include the Car Crazy Cocktail with Barry Meguiar (of Speed Channel "Outlaw Shooting" of the first two episodes in Asia on the show courtesy of Meguiar's Philippines Inc., a "Meet and Greet Barry Meguiar" session scheduled on opening day May 26@ 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is also the Trip for Phoenix Fuels Transport Show Auto Rally by SUP Turbo and Timberland Rally Raid. This is like the Sampaguita or "Dry Time, All the Time" rally which will be open to all motorcycling enthusiast. The Phoenix Auto Rally will run through 4 provinces - Cavite, Batangas, Quezon and Laguna with coached timed runs in two tracks and closed public roads as part of the event. Ceremonial flag-off will take place on May 28, Saturday, at 7 p.m. in front of SMX with the 20 title and 80 Best Trimmin, Absolute Bitchin' Scenario contestants. The final champion will be at Pedro Point (rally sponsor) where an Ivy dinner will be served, the awarding will be held inside the the exhibit hall.

The Die-Cast Car Collectors of the Philippines (DCCPH) will do a "Heritage Car vs Miniature" in the lobby area of the Convention Center – a welcome treat for the young and budding car enthusiasts and hobbyists. The launch for the 20th Mini Trans Sport Show is open to all the participating booth around entry in the show and will surely be center show-stopping for the photographers. There will be daily raffles, exhibitor related activities, video shows, Trans Sport Show souvenir raffle and many more.

The Grand 3-Ring Motoring event is sponsored in part by The House of Precast, Solar Auto Club and 100 Philippines Service Providers in clude Meguiar's (Official Car Detailer), Duroni Liner (Official VIP Ride), Auto Transporter (Official Car Carrier), Motorola (Official Communications), and OSC Audio Workshop (Official Lights).

Provided Other sponsors are CI, Gilbey Tea Crest and Dewar Whisk, 99.5RT, Crossover 101.1, Bounce FM 106.7, 2DM 1468, Magic 89.9, UB 107.9, 945[], 97 Home Radio, 93.1 90, DZRJ 810, Guild Motoring, Turbo Time, Business Mirror, Businessworld, Chinese Commercial News, Daily Tribune, Manila Bulletin, Manila Standard Today, Manila Times, Malaya Business Insight, Philippine Star, Bell's Point, Inter Mass, Globe, Summit Window, Sunshine TV Motoring Today, Auto Driver, Straight Tv, Pinoy Extreme, The Kennedys Channel, Jack TV, Auto Extreme, Autoindustriya.com, Kotse.com and Big Bigas.ca. For more details, call Tradeshow International at 671-1122, 671-4804 to 82.

The Home Depot unveils its newest milestone

RIBBON-cutting of The Home Depot-Makati's store entrance. From left: The Home Depot president Napoleon Co, Makati City Mayor Hon. Jejomar Binay, and The Home Depot chair Veronica Chan. Back Left: Bishop Jacquelito Jaucian, The Home Depot managing director Ferdinand Co, Philippine Contractors Association president engineer Lory Esperon and The Home Depot's Victor Chan.

THE Home Depot's Ultra Modern Event Hall.

FACADE shot of The Home Depot-Makati branch.

IT WAS expected to open cans and drops that day but it never happened as the building and construction boom, The Home Depot by CW Group-Retail hit the doors of Montage during the grand opening of its newest branch in Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo), Makati.

The intimate gathering was graced by the building and construction's finest organizations: Philippine Constructors Association, United Architects of the Philippines, Philippine Institute of Architects, Philippine Institute of Interior Designers, Chamber of Real Estate and Builder's Association, Philippine Society of Plumbing Engineers, Philippine Electrical Code Inc. Board, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Philippine Association of Building Officials Inc. and Chamber of Forestry Industries of the Philippines, members of the press and industry partners among others.

The successful 3 years thriving convenience of The Home Depot-Makati branch's three stores edifice was led by Makati City Mayor Hon. Jejomar Erineo S. Binay Jr. together with Napoleon Co and Veronica Chan, president and chair of The Home Depot, respectively on the store ribbon-cutting.

The first ladies of CW Group - Dra. Jennifer Go Co, acting Dr. Lydia Chua, Susan Co, Jewel Go, Jennifer Co, and Barbie Co opened the entrance to the Home Interior Superstore as they led the 2nd leg of the ribbon-cutting.

THE Home Depot president, Napoleon Co, leading the team with The Home Depot chairlady Veronica Chan and the building and construction's finest.

The Home Depot managing director Ferdinand Co, Philippine Contractors Association president engineer Lory V. Esperon, United Architects of the Philippines national president architect Rogelio S. Manchess, Philippine Institute of Architects' architect Antonio L. Loyzaga, Cebu Division Hardware Inc. vice president Michael Co, Wheat Stone Ceramic special assistant to the regional manager Jimmy Yeo, and Cebu Home Builder general manager James Co, opened The Home Depot Events Hall - the first state of the art venue within a depot especially designed to play host to significant industry events and functions.

"This is a step further from our first five stores. With our first five outlets, we're able to cater to the needs of the end users, now we want to do the same with the trade professionals for our ninth branch," says Ferdinand Co.

The Home Depot is a joint venture of Cebu Division Hardware Co Inc and Wheat Stone Industrial Co. Its ordering transaction are located in Antipolo, Alabang, Balintawak, Manila Bay and Pampanga.

FROM left, Wheat Stone Ceramic special assistant to the regional manager Jimmy Yeo, United Architects of the Philippines national president architect Rogelio S. Manchess, Philippine Contractors Association president engineer Lory V. Esperon, The Home Depot managing director Ferdinand Co, Philippine Institute of Architects' architect Antonio L. Loyzaga, Hexagon Industrial Sales Inc president Vicente Chua, Cebu Overseas Hardware Inc vice president Michael Co, and Cebu Home Builder general manager James Co opening the doors to the The Home Depot Events Hall - the first state of the art venue within a depot especially designed to play host to significant industry events and functions.

FROM left, The first ladies of CW Group - Jewel Co, Susan Co, Barbie Co, Lydia Chua, Dra. Estrella Go Co, Acheng Uy and Jennifer Co, leading the 2nd leg of the ribbon-cutting at the Home Interior Superstore.

Prestone brings 'flush and fill' drive to neighborhoods

PRESTONE HAS expanded its campaign and advocacy to enroll the habit of flushing and filling old brake fluid among motorists to include villages and subdivisions in Metro Manila.

Prestone concluded its "Flush and Fill" campaign in Masaya Green Village by conducting free brake fluid testing for residents during the Pasinaya Gto barangay's recent 32nd foundation day. The neighborhood fest gave car owners an alternative from going to car service shops to have their brake fluid's boiling point measured right at their community.

"This is to pioneering effort to reach the neighborhood. We want to bring the campaign closer to car owners and make it convenient for them to have their cars tested," says Modesto Dagdag, president of Qhem International Philippines Inc (Qpi), manufacturer of reliable Prestone brake fluid.

The "Flush and Fill" campaign started more than a year ago with the free brake fluid check conducted in car service shop partners, malls and car shows nationwide.

"It's not just a one-time activity. It's an advocacy to educate people on the need to really have their brake fluids tested for cars at least 2 years old or older every year so that car owners can trust that their brakes will work whenever it is needed," says Dagdag. "The more it stay until people really become aware of the need to flush and fill."

Prestone believes that there is an urgent and compelling need to extend the free brake fluid testing campaign to get the motoring public into the flush and fill habit. Prestone recommends a yearly test and brake fluid change especially for car/van owner and riders.

Brake fluid is only effective when it boils at temperature of 200 to 230 degrees Celsius. Below that, brakes may not work properly thus exposing motorists to road accidents. A lower boiling point indicates there is moisture that may lead to corrosion and vapor lock resulting to brake failure.

So far, the campaign is on reeling by raising the level awareness on the flush and fill habit and by the number of people who have had their cars' brake fluid tested.

More than 10,000 cars have been tested nationwide to date, according to Dagdag. She also noted that more than 400 car service providers have since taken part in the Prestone campaign to date. Dagdag expects this number to increase to 2,000 outlets by June this year. Prestone provided each platinum with a brake fluid test kit.

"As part of our partnership with car care centers, we purchase brake fluid testing kits and provide them as tool to have a brake fluid tests for motorists using the best exchange of brake fluids," she says. "It's an investment to Prestone's part but it's something we're willing to do so that we can bring to the consumer the value of having to run their brake fluid, flush and fill if needed."

To ensure optimum brake system performance, car care experts recommend using only the highest quality brake fluid like Prestone Brake Fluid. That's because Prestone Brake Fluid has a scientifically compounded and chemically balanced formula developed for all types of automobile and hydraulic brake systems, including those equipped with disc brakes. The brand contains lubricants and dispersants that preserve the hydraulic brake system for long periods of time under varied conditions. It has since exceeded the performance requirements of the industry, Federal (DOT 3), and even military brake fluid specifications.

In Bacolod, Prestone is hoping that by closing the "flush and fill" campaign, more and more vehicles would soon become road-safe, and these can help bring down the number of road accidents in the country.

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eBay Philippines launches eBay Motors

EBAY PHILIPPINES (www.ebay.ph), Philippines' leading eCommerce marketplace, recently launched eBay Motors (www.motors.ebay.com), an online shopping experience that provides tech savvy buyers and sellers a one-stop site for their motoring needs.

"We are excited to launch eBay Motors, a multi-dimensional marketplace which offers more options, for both buyers and sellers," said Mona Ildefonso B, eBay Philippines country manager. He added, "The launch of eBay Motors complements our other offerings online. Generally, we offer three formats to sell your product to anyone – auction, fixed price and classifieds (for vehicles and real estate properties)."

Buyers and sellers can now choose from a variety of new car selling options including auction, fixed price, fuel offer or an online classified ad to drive leads. Currently auto-cars make up about 23 percent of all vehicles sold on eBay Motors.

Deepa Thomas, eBay Philippines's senior manager for corporate communications and public affairs said, "through eBay Motors, we hope to be able to provide a more credible business avenue for more buyers and sellers of cars ... fresh new and used. We believe that through eBay's tried and tested reliable online platform, buyers and sellers can safely and confidently do their transactions."

At present, eBay Philippines has over 800,000 registered users. These users come from all 13 metropolitan areas in the Philippines.

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A 'Class' of their own

Watch the X-Men come together for the first time in the stylish and smart superhero romp "X-Men: First Class"

By Rod S. De Vera

IT IS difficult to imagine, but back in 2000, the idea of successful films based on comic book superheroes were as rare as actual, real-life mutants. All that changed with Bryan Singer's "X-Men," a box-office hit that introduced mutants to the movie-going audience and arguably began a revolution in terms of comic book-based motion pictures.

Time travel to the present and comic-book movies are being unleashed every other month and the X-Men movie franchise has evolved to include three more movies (2003's "X2," 2006's "X-Men: The Last Stand" and 2009's "X-Men Origins: Wolverine") and launched the career of one Hugh Jackman, who starred as the badass shirtless/hairy Wolverine.

The X-Men movie franchise rediscovers itself on the very beginnings of Marvel Comics' premier mutant superteam with Britain director Matthew Vaughn's "X-Men: First Class." Vaughn has always displayed a lot of versatility, helming the stoner gangster flick "Layer Cake," the high fantasy "Stardust" and the iconic comic-book film "Kick-Ass," and now he punches a lot of different switches and buttons in what is ostensibly the X-Men origin story.

It is the circa 1960s and the world is teetering on the edge of nuclear war as the Cuban missile crisis pits not between superpowers the United States and the Soviet

» CLASS/ C2

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An inexpensive way to phone home

Say goodbye to Skype; a Filipino company did something better

By Harvey D. Hawkins
Core Slider

Well is a college student at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill. He misses his family in Manila during the holidays, he calls home once in a while. He budgets his allowance wisely, and he knows the ins and outs of the latest technology. He can talk to his family for free over the web with his computer and Skype. But he is also very aware of the high cost of international calls from his cell phone.

Well's solution? Mig33, a free mobile phone application developed by Filipino company Migme. Mig33 allows users to send free messages and make free calls to other Mig33 users around the world. Well's family and friends in Manila have Mig33 installed on their phones, so he can call them for free whenever he wants.

Well is not the only one who has found Mig33 to be a cheaper alternative to traditional mobile phone calls. Mig33 has over 20 million registered users in more than 200 countries and territories around the world. Users can send free messages and make free calls to other Mig33 users, regardless of their location.

Mig33 was launched in 2006 by Migme, a Filipino company founded by Filipino entrepreneur Jerry Ng. The company has received funding from several venture capital firms, including Sequoia Capital and Accel Partners.

Mig33 is available for free download on the App Store for iPhone and iPad devices, and on Google Play for Android devices. It can also be accessed through a web browser on a computer.

The app's success has been attributed to its simple and user-friendly interface, as well as its ability to work on a wide range of devices, including older models with limited processing power and memory.

Mig33 has also been praised for its security features. All messages sent through the app are encrypted, and users can choose to have their messages automatically deleted after a certain period of time.

Despite its success, Mig33 has faced some challenges. In 2011, the company was forced to shut down its operations in Indonesia after the government there banned the app over concerns that it was being used to spread pornography and other illegal content.

Despite this setback, Mig33 remains a popular choice for Filipinos who want to stay in touch with their loved ones overseas without breaking the bank. As Well puts it, "Mig33 is a lifesaver. I don't know what I would do without it."

A 'slippery' Sunday with the Azkals

From page C2

taken with the footballers.

The guys, after debating whether they could pull off her pink pedo, decided to use the idea of pink flip flops and opted to go for normal pairs instead... while leaving more on the pedo they were making for their special girls (our fan servers and nothing beside).

The dare were allowed to assemble their own flip flops without the ceremony wearing, probably because of their natural athleticism and upper body strength... they never least likely to pair their eyes on with the best pedo matching straps, something I can't guarantee for myself.

While my brief afternoon with the Azkals was fun, it could've been of value to assemble remembered. There, team... maybe next year.

AZKALS Nate Burkey, James Reddle and Aly Borromeo

MICHAEL Fandamiler and James McAvoy

NICHOLAS Hoult as Hank Beast

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Bye-bye, Friendster

The greatest casualty of Facebook's popularity closes down on May 31

By Tein Yang
Geek Rocker

BACK when Facebook was a taste and in the mind of Mark Zuckerberg—or the Winkelvoss twins, depending on whose side you are on—Friendster was all the rage.

To the younger set who've never been, Friendster was the virtual hangout for everyone, and it pioneered the social network that Facebook has become famous for.

In lieu of Walls and poking, there were testimonies—long drawn-out, flowery testimonies about how awesome a friend you are. There was no tagging of photos (gasp!), but you could see when your friend last logged on, so no "I didn't read your message cause I haven't logged on yet" drama, and by a whole Friendster magazine decided a "Who's viewed your profile" feature which drove all the nosey stalkers around included, into a crazy panic. There was no Farmville, or any social game, and Friendster was essentially like a stripped-down version of Facebook.

Explosion

And then Facebook happened. Its explosion on the social network scene pantomimed like unruly denizens of Friendsters and everyone jumped like rats from a sinking ship. Pretty soon, Friendster was a thing of the past, with most of its previous members dumping their never-used addresses in the bin.

Still, the dregs of our past profiles lived on—that is, until the end of this month, as Friendster's efforts to clean house and revamp its site, all user data and photos will be deleted from its servers, so you still have a few days to decide if you wanted those faded you-profile-axis-your-hand drawings you signed up to other dancing sites like Flickr or Multiply.

For those who want to keep a copy of past profiles and photos, simply visit Friendster's help page and use the Friendster Export app to archive to the last jpg. The Export screen extracts friend lists, profile information, blogs, comments, photos, messages and testimonials, and groups.

Friendster will only wipe out the contents of your profile, but your profile will remain as part of Friendster's new, future site—that is, if you're still interested.

How to know if you should salvage your Friendster profile

1. If you still remember your username and password
2. If you must turn to have a copy of that effusive testimonial from your college crush
3. If your Friendster profile looks cooler with an album called "Old Friendster photos"
4. If you haven't rekindled your self-curiosity about yet

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A 'slippery' Sunday with the Azkals

By Tein Yang
Contributor

The footballers show off a different kind of fancy footwork

ANTON del Rosario has a touch for rocking flip-flops.

[illegible] when the first "Make Your Own Havaianas" event, it has always been my dream to be one of the Azkals who went in charge of assembling the customized rubber slippers.

This year, I tried to make it come true by asking if I could (pretty please) have a shift on Sunday, but my hopes were dashed after learning that the assemblers had to undergo several training and practice sessions—which I had not accomplished.

Still, they asked me if I'd rather spend the day lounging out with the Azkals instead to chat them up while they tied their own flip-flops inside. I didn't even have to think about it. The idea of assembling just other pair of slippers paled in comparison to milling with built athletes while they chew boredom.

The Azkals had a game that afternoon, and sadly there were able to make it—Anton del Rosario and two new additions to the team, Dan Bailey and James Sachlaw. There almost made the Havaianas footer inappropriately forget their flip-flop cravings as everyone rising and rich decked to have their photos

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Are you Anton's Slipperella?

BECAUSE partly but are one of the things he checks out in a potential date, Inasa had Adlai swimsuit, Anton del Rosario corner ensemble and sign a special pair for one lucky footer girl...if the slipper fits. Because of the limited stocks on hand, he chose one 27/38 (EK-K). If you want to win the pair, e-mail to us proof that you are the Azkals' biggest fan. Send entries to tsa...@yahoo.com.ph. Anton will personally select the winner's entry will be published next week. Don't forget to include your contact details so we can let you know.

super LIFESTYLE

MAROON 5 IN MANILA

How Adam Levine almost met his Filipina 'fiancée'

Maroon 5's second coming to Manila brought a wave of 'killig' encounters, including a long-overdue attempt at 'I do'

By Angelo V. Ignacio
Contributor

IT'S 2005. At the end of my phone interview with Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine for 2DU, I feel casually popped the question: "Will you marry me?" "Of course! Let's do it," he had replied, just as casually. "Great. So I'll be waiting till you come here, then." "Okay, perfect." It wasn't until I'd replayed the tape recording for my squealing friends hours later that it hit me: Holy crap, I've just gotten engaged to Adam Levine!

Fast-forward to May 21, 2011. News must have leaked that I didn't get to see the band during its 2008 visit, but gave me a second chance to reunite Adam of our long-standing engagement, and I wasn't about to let it go to waste.

I'd brought proof in the form of a well-preserved copy of my 2005 phoner article. Despite it no longer being current, and the press note was in an e-mail I'd even won a token dress. The stage was set; all I had to do was to pop the question again, this time in person.

Short and (bitter)sweet

As it turned out, the press conference was very short, leaving no room for meet-and-greets. When the band finally entered the languished Gateway ballroom at Ether Strategy-Lo, I could've sworn I heard every one's hearts stop beating, including mine.

The nonstop touring for their latest album "Hands All Over" might have taken its toll on them, but the Grammy-winning group still had plenty of boyish charm and humor to spread around. "We want to say that 10% not with us right now, he's still upstairs studying his bass for the concert," Jesse joked to the preening crowd about their absent "club member" (who, quite ironically, sports a bass cut).

Songs about Heather

Anyone who claims to be the hosts' number one fan will be hard-pressed to beat the American girl who's chosen to their heart's "Heather's our biggest fan, probably in the world. She's been to probably more shows than any other person," Adam shared.

As each of the guys drew questions out of the box, I wished like mad they'd pick my ballot containing my "forgotpassword." But in the end, they didn't. Five minutes...seven questions, none of them mine. As Adam walked past me, I debated on whether to shout, "Hey Adam, it's me, your fiancée of six years," or run up to him and toss him the article before his bouncers tackled me to the ground. But I only ended up sinking after him with my jaw—and heart—dragging on the carpet.

'Musical ox machine'

Adam wasn't kidding when he promised that the show in the SMX Convention Center was going to be satisfying, because it was. The room "high-on-rage" couldn't even explain it; the band gave an explosive, jaw-dropping performance, performing 16 of their hits from their three albums plus three encore songs, ending with the bouncy feel-good classic "Sunday Morning" from the quadruple platinum debut "Songs about Jane."

MAROON 5 takes Manila by storm for the second time.

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPH BY ED ABOGA

PUGAD BABOY BY PAUL LANGIR

DICK TRACY

LOVE BOOTS BY ELIZABETH HOCHWALD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RHEO MACHINE BY PAVEL ABBOTT

DEH BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG BY MARK COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The pace of your days is accelerating, so you have to just accept this. Go with the flow. Meet more people and attend parties, and talking to everyone are your top priorities.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Expect uncommon issues today. Someone got a better job? Isn't any media worse money on the side? Can you afford a major purchase right now?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Things are unfolding as you wished. Because the Sports Horizon sign, Wanting more will be. Career and relationships will come your way as well. Enjoy your good fortune.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's only natural that you will want to work alone or behind the scenes right now for the next week or so. You want to keep a low profile. You need to be comfortable.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) This is a good time to talk about your hopes and dreams for the future with others because you understand what really lies. Perhaps you need to make a few changes?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You could be more than ordinarily productive today. Your ability to focus and get things done is especially helpful. Spiritual matters, dreams and other subconscious influences are significant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Circumstances give you to expand your horizons. Travel, scholarship. Sign up for a course. Do something you've never tried before.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Circumstances push you to be more independent. You might want to work on personal projects. Now, inheritances and the conclusion of your partner are a strong focus at this time. Outstanding might benefit you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Keep in mind that you need to get more sleep right now. Because the theme is health, you can improve your regimen. Eat well and, if you're having trouble sleep.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Are you in a rush to get further organized in the next few days? Don't start with the right tools and materials to accomplish this. Get down to it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Let's hope you're not feeling like isolation — time to get out of your comfort zone, where the action is. Enjoy sports, the arts, romance and getting more involved.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Some disagreements are important now and in the next few weeks. You have motivating importance; we want to say, and you accept to live it!

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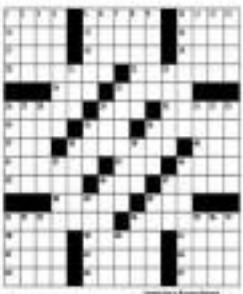

How Adam Levine almost met his Filipina 'fiancée'

From page B1

Adam Levine."

It was a hair-raising moment when, while playing "One Will Be Loved," Adam divided the crowd to sing "I don't mind spending every day/ out in your corner in the pouring rain" and "She will be loved" simultaneously on repeat. Nothing beats Pinoys when it comes to singing during during concerts.

My "modeling preparations" might have been an epic failure, but I figured that if I couldn't publicly reaffirm myself as his official fiancée, the least I could do was to prove him my undying love as a fan. And that I did, along with thousands of fellow fans. Levine hopefully who got to watch him and the rest of the band seriously rock Manila that rainy Monday evening.

Moral of the story? Don't go tossing marriage proposals to random hot vocalists during phone interviews, because you never know who else might arrive in town. Adam, if you're reading this, please don't make your Filipina fiancée wait another six years to make you say "I do."

"Maroon 5 Live in Manila" was presented by Music Management International and Pulse Entertainment Inc. with the following sponsors and media partners: Smart, Glaxo, SM Mall Of Asia, Nike Olympic La Mesa, MOA Music, Aerosplex, FOX, Star World, Lotus Asia, Spin Filipino, 20 Plus, Buzz de Oro, Cityofsheep, GMA, Business World, Manila Bulletin, Manila Comet Times, 987 Magazine, Uno Magazine, Rap.ph and clickfriendly.com.

ADAM Levine (vocals, guitar), Mickey Madden (bass), and Jesse Carmichael (keys/backup vocals)

10 minutes with Maroon 5

IT WAS short and bittersweet, but then again, Grammy award-winning rock band Maroon 5 could only spare so much time for a press conference. They just had five hours to prep for their fans "the greatest show of all time," a.k.a. the "Hands All Over" tour Manila concert held May 23 at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay.

At the Glass Lounge in Plaza Adam Levine, Jesse Carmichael, Mickey Madden, Matt Flynn (who was celebrating his birthday that day) and James Valentine talked about, in 15 minutes, how they produced their latest album "Hands All Over," their songwriting inspirations, and the possibility of a musical collaboration with (gasp!) Manny Pacquiao.

What's so special about the making of your latest album?

Mr We were in Switzerland to make the album, which is a very beautiful place. Working away from home is an amazing thing, and we did it with Matt Lange, who is a legendary super producer with a boat of gold. It was an interesting experience. It was paradise; it was a beautiful, isolated place to focus and concentrate on just making music.

Would you be willing to collaborate with Pinoy artists? People like Shamcey, Manny Pacquiao, Annel Pineda, Black Eyed Peas (April de Ape) ...

Of course! Pitch Pacquiao, that would be awesome, ... we wouldn't want to say no.

How do you go about your songwriting process?

There's no formula at all. Sometimes it could be a chord progression that Jesse writes, sometimes it can be a drumbeat that Matthew Flynn writes, or a bass line; it really can come from anything. "She Will Be Loved" was James' writing a beautiful piano piece progression. There's a million different ways we can write music, it's all over the place. It's better that way.

Can you single out any memorable line?

Heather Hatcher's probably our biggest fan in the world. She's in the States, and she's probably been to more shows than any other person. She was stoned when nobody came to our shows, and she would be the only person there with a couple of her friends. She's been to seven billion shows since then, and she's the best, most dedicated fan to this day. Heather, we love you very much.

What do you like about going on tour?

The coolest thing about being on tour is getting to see different places.

Who's the goofiest member of the group?

We're all goofy. It sounds diplomatic, but it's definitely true.

Which artists are you looking forward to collaborating with in the future?

Adele! Danger Mouse, that would be cool. James Murphy from LCD Soundsystem...they just broke up so he's not doing anything, he could produce us. Bruce Dickinson from Iron Maiden; there's a rapper called Curtains, we could do something with him. And Manny Pacquiao!

Annaella S. Reyes

Party with 2NE1: Live in Manila on June 4!

By Gideon Isidro
Contributor

SEOKJEONG (a Korean thing for K-Pop) music is in high, nearly hours with emphasis on its biggest product. The all-girl Korean group 2NE1 has been by fingerfire (the electronic accessory with K-Pop and assisted to have replaced its music with American energy and beat, reminiscent of Pussycat Dolls and Beyonce. If you remember the Korean lyrics (or the Korean accent), you'd think 2NE1 is an American group.

2NE1 is composed of Bom, CL, Dara and Minzy. They have released a lot of American songs — some are sung in English, while some are translated or partially translated in Korean. They even had an interpretation of Rihanna's song "Take a Bow."

"2NE1 has a power and an aura when it comes to Korean music," says Mayi, 28, resident of SP Heights. "While most girl groups usually come in two categories — sexy or cute, 2NE1 is a step above. They can be both on their stride in the market."

According to Mayi, a 2NE1 fan, the group signifies women empowerment. She says, "They represent the modern woman through their lyrics, choreography and fashion style. You would usually expect girl groups to have a male-dominated fan base but because of this unique sound and image they attract more female fans."

Music awards

"To Anyone" album has reaped accolades from the 2010 Mnet Asian Music Awards (Female Group Award, Musical Award, Best Digital Single Award and Record of the Year); 2010 Mnet Music Awards (Mnet Music Award Top 10 and Album Award); 2011 Korean Music Awards (Best Dance & Electronic Album); and the 2011 MTV Iggy Music Festival (Artist of the Year).

In Manila, "To Anyone" has achieved the top sales position in local record stores. 2NE1's "Go Away" music video was uploaded Parasite K-Pop Video in the 2011 Mnet Music Awards.

Although their music has a hilarious sound, you can still appreciate the group's great live — as good as they sound on CD — sometimes even better," boasts Mayi.

The group's dance is not your typical cute, girly kind of dance. It's similar to American hip-hop dancing.

For Mayi, it would be difficult to pick her favorite among the group. She says, "They all have their own strengths and they deliver powerful live performances."

Their first concert in Manila is at the Araneta Coliseum on June 4. Tickets are available at all Ticketworld outlets, brought to you by Philip Live Productions.

4 rock legends out to take Manila by storm

From page B6

second-to-none chemistries on set, 2NITM's third album not only speaks of global crises and economic turmoil, but it also rejuvenates the end of an 18-month creative hiatus, largely related to the band's infamous lawsuit with Virgin Records that was eventually dropped. Says Jared, "It took two years, we went to hell and back to see you, I thought it was going to be the death of us, but it became a transformative experience. It's not so much an evolution as it is a revolution. It's a coming of age."

Who to contact: Visit mmlive.com, twitter.com/mmlive, twitter.com/fuseraphdave or facebook.com/dave, or call the hot line 0915.5509054/ 5867279. Brought to you by Music Management International and Fuseraphdave.

Korn Live in Manila

When: Aug. 30, 6 p.m.
Where: Araneta Coliseum
How much: TBA
Why you should watch: It's Korn. Stuff said. Jonathan Davis (vocals), James "Munky" Shaffer (guitar), Reginald "Fieldy" Arvizu (bass), and Ray Luzier (drums) will rock Manila for the first time. Have fun, belonging in their brand of rock 'n' roll in the form of "twisted, throbbing guitar riffs, syncopated chaotic funk beats, a schizophrenic bass thump and an unmistakable outlander howl." Formed in 1993, the Grammy-winning rock band from Cali-fornia has long crossed itself as one of the most influential, long-surviving mainstream success with hits such as "Freak On A Leash" and "Get The Life." Nine studio releases later, the band's most recent record "Korn III: Remember Who You Are" (with the debut single "Oildale (Leave Me Alone)") has the quartet going full-throttle, belonging in their brand of rock 'n' roll in the form of "twisted, throbbing guitar riffs, syncopated chaotic funk beats, a schizophrenic bass thump and an unmistakable outlander howl." Formed in 1993, the Grammy-winning rock band from California

BIG BAND INVASION

4 rock legends out to take Manila by storm (literally)

INCUBUS

Super gives you four awesome reasons to save up for a rainy day: 30 Seconds To Mars, Incubus, Korn, Live's Ed Kowalczyk

By Angela V Ignacio
Cook Dulce

WHEN it rains, it pours. And we never get tired of saying that, what with all the foreign acts gracing our shores this year. At the end of the year, we wanted you that 2011 is a hell, but nice to be broke, so we kept 'em all saved enough for a rainy day. Incubus Live in Manila: If Not Now, Where? World Tour 2011-2012

When: July 20, 6 p.m.

Where: Araneta Coliseum

How much: P6,000 (Patron 101 Standing); P5,500 (Pit/in front/up); P6,500 (Lower Box Upr); P4,500 (Lower Box Regular); P3,000 (Upper Box A); P1,800 (Upper Box B); P750 (General Admission); all exclusive of TicketWorld service charge.

Why you should watch (again): After two explosive Manila shows in 2004 and 2006, the boys are coming back to promote their latest studio album, "If Not Now, Where?", slated to hit stores on July 12. This highly anticipated follow-up to 2009's "Light Grenades" showcases a confident sound as evidenced by the debut single "Adolescents." To quote guitarist Mike Einziger in an interview, it's "definitely not a hard rock record."

In their official website, incubusband.com, frontman Brandon Boyd acknowledged that the album, the band's "most favorite to the world," may be met with some trepidation from hardcore fans, but he's happy to share in such dissonance. "It's darker, slower, more rich, more refined, and more involved than anything incubus has birthed to date," wrote the vocal-artist with the famous eyeblindfold. "This entire time, incubus has essentially been searching for a sense of balance between all of the possibilities inherent in crafting a song. I do believe that for many years now we have been searching for something different. Something unique both to the world and to us as a band. We decided that 'If Not Now, Where?' our sixth full length studio album would be just that."

Are you in? Maybe, maybe not—we'll have to listen to the album first, but hey, it's Incubus. The first two concerts didn't disappoint, so it's highly unlikely that this one will.

Who to contact: Call TicketWorld at 911-5555, thought to you by Overdrive Productions.

30 Seconds To Mars Live in Manila

When: July 29

Where: Mindanao Open Pit Ing, Taguig

How much: P6,000 (VIP seating); P4,500 (Gold seating); P3,000 (Silver seating); all + 9% charges.

Why you should watch: Those of us who have grown up sulking from Lists in "My So-Called Life" will finally get to be serenaded by Jared in the flesh. The accomplished actor-turned-for-his-work-in such Films as "Fight Club," "Panic Room" and "Mr.Nobody," is also the vocalist, rhythm guitarist and songwriter for 30 Seconds To Mars. He band formed back in 1998. Together with brother Shannon (drums) and Tomo Milicevic (lead guitar, keyboards).

Dubbed as a "world-class, arena-rocking rock band," the trio has released three studio albums to date: the 2002 debut "30 Seconds to Mars" (carried by the single "Capricorn (A Brand New Name)"), 2009's multi-platinum-ing "A Beautiful Lie" (containing "The Kill," "Attack" and "From Yesterday") and their latest endeavor, 2009's "This Is War" as the main thrust behind their worldwide "Into The Wild" tour according to their official website, Bodyroc

30 SECONDS to Mars

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2b LIFESTYLE

It all falls down: understanding teen depression

By Erica Paredes
Contributor

HAVE you ever been so happy you actually feel like you physically want to burst? You know the feeling when nothing can bring you down, and even the most annoying person you know brings a smile to your face? Sometimes it could be because of a certain incident, such as getting hearts to school, or your crush saying hello to you. Other times it is more extended, and becomes part of your general disposition.

Imagine feeling the opposite. I'm not just talking about sadness that lasts a few hours because your mom didn't want to buy you the dress you wanted, or because your dad scolded you for being out late for your curfew. I'm talking a deep, long-standing sadness that takes you to the darkest places in you that you didn't even know existed.

It's the kind of sadness that isn't alleviated by your favorite person, when a smile is too much of an effort, and when anger has run so deep that you stop caring. There's a name for that, and it's called depression.

> "I'm talking a deep, long-standing sadness that takes you to the darkest places in you that you didn't even know existed"

If you think you might be experiencing it or know someone who is, don't take it lightly. It's a real condition with real repercussions if not addressed properly.

More than just teen angst

I went through my own bout of depression. I was about 11 years old when I started feeling the first signs of it, like feeling uninterested in social activities, not wanting to get out of bed for any reason, weight loss because I was never in the mood to eat, and self-imposed guilt.

All of these feelings grew and gave birth to other ones, which eventually resulted in me doing some really stupid things, like shoplifting small items like pens and stamps, smoking, drinking and just generally causing trouble.

I did all of it because I didn't know what to do with myself. I didn't want to take care of myself because I didn't care enough to. I felt like I wasn't worth it, and my perfectionist ways made me think, "If I'm not going to get it right the first time, what's the point?"

Depression can show itself through anxiety, but it can also just as easily come out as anger, irritability and general negativity from the person going through it.

I used to get into so many fights with my

A weekly directory of the country's best entertainments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Shangri-La Cebu welcomes new director of sales and marketing

WITH OVER 20 years of experience in the industry, Hotel Agure Bratt, Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu's new director of sales and marketing, is a welcome addition to the dynamic team of hospitality experts who work round-the-clock to provide guests a premier Shangri-La experience multi-award winning.

At Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu, Agure leads a vibrant and multicultural sales and marketing team in ensuring that the resort stays ahead in the local industry, continually connecting to others and keeping its products relevant to what the market and the customers need.

Prior to taking up her position at Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu, Agure spent 17 years in six companies, serving as director of sales and marketing for seven different hotels and resorts, and as general manager for two city hotels each known as of marketing for Shangri-La Hotel, Jakarta. Agure has worked in Shangri-La group hotels and resorts in the Fiji Islands, Thailand, Australia, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines.

From the challenges of selling a pre-opening hotel, a re-branding exercise, creating and implementing destination and team-building programs to overcoming the hurdle of a temporary poor political turmoil, Agure has successfully led crucial sales and marketing teams in doing above-and-beyond to achieving stellar numbers for their respective properties.

A true hotelier, Agure hopes her journey is an industry mainstay after earning a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Tourism at the University of the Philippines' Asian Institute of Tourism in 1994.

With various struggles and victories along the way, Agure stresses that she learned to value and appreciate time – the time to create and market the experiences through the years is actually quite simple.

"The industry is a broad spectrum of guests with differing backgrounds and preferences, and [we] learned to use common basic need – and that is for guests to feel special, loved and recognized," she says.

For more information and reservations, please contact a travel professional or access the website at www.shangri-la.com.

Mariott Manila participates in worldwide Three for Free promo

THIS 4th leader and budget saving in rupees has come on Marriott Manila for successful meeting solutions with creation that value in three. As the hotel's saving Rush rupees to meeting guests, Marriott Manila is participating in the Marriott Hotels' worldwide Three for Free Meeting promo. Another project of the Marriott Rewards which is known in the industry as the world's leading hotel loyalty program, the promo is available with minimum of 10 rooms from June to September 2011 combo the planner their enjoyable freebies as a reward.

Located in more than 3, 2000+ hotels in the world in over 70 countries, Marriott Rewards gives the hotel a well-experienced to host meetings and events with combined expertise to consistently deliver with quality. Distinguished to its service standard specifically tailored towards the requirements of meeting and event travelers, Marriott Hotels offers variety of facilities from banquet and conferences, business center executive floor, host of restaurants, spa with gym, and outdoor pool, after a hectic schedule or long day of work, the room is a sanctuary of comfort with high-speed Internet access and spacious working desk with good lighting. Recharge after a hectic schedule and indulge in the finest beddings of Marriott, known for its luxurious look and feel for the most restful slumber.

The Marriott Hotels recognizes for a job well done. Marriott Manila won't only helps engage a flawless event in every booked meeting venue with a sweet gift that comes in three. Choose from one of these choices to reassure those well-deserved endorsements. Complimentary daily breakfast for the delegates, free Internet in the meeting room. We inform on the market list, room upgrade, double Marriott Rewards points, one free meeting or afternoon break, or a surprise welcoming gift.

To know more about this promo, contact the sales manager at 988-9999.

Daddy's big day at The Bellevue

ON JUNE 19, 5 tell your hardworking and dedicated dads in a special Father's Day celebration at The Bellevue Hotel, a luxurious 5-star hotel in the Southern Metro. Let the men of the house feel like royalty as you treat him and the entire family to a brunch fit for all the kings in a beautiful room designed with Asian flavors a quality, bonding time with your favorite among the delectable spread of Pasta, Summer Seafood Casserole with Cheese, Pepperoni Shrimp & Pesto Pasta, Fish Wellington and Pinoy BBQ Eye, available for lunch and dinner. All dads dining on this day get special gifts from The Bellevue Hotel and Summit Media through its Men's Health and Top Gear magazines. Happy Father's Day! For inquiries, call 771-2488.

Thunderbird Resorts hosts pre-pageant events of Miss Philippines Earth 2011

AS PART of its commitment of working with a conscience towards promoting environmental awareness, Thunderbird Resorts supports the endless crusade of beautifying Mother Earth.

In celebration of the "Year of the Forests" (the 2011), two of the most awaited pre-pageant events of the Miss Philippines Earth took centers stage in Thunderbird Resorts Metropolitan Road's newest Event Center.

Organized together with the Miss Earth Foundation, and Carousel Productions, both the Talent Competition and Cultural Competition were held for May 21, at 3 and 6 p.m. respectively.

Miss Philippines Earth pro-moves heavily for cause, in the same way that Thunderbird Resorts strongly upholds the environment and the environment. Thunderbird Resorts is committed in encouraging green practices through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm, the Thunderbird Resorts Efforts on Environment Sustainability (TREES) program. Under this initiative activities such as tree planting, hot runs, beach and coastal clean-ups to name a few.

For more details about the Miss Philippines Earth 2011 Pre-pageant events in Thunderbird Resorts, call 651-4000.

29th Annual Scientific Conference at Hotel H2O

THE VETERINARY Practitioners Association of the Philippines (VPAP), the biggest and oldest private veterinary association in the country, will be holding its 29th Annual Scientific Conference at the Hotel H2O, Loreto, Manila, on June 09 to 11, 2011 at 8:30am to 5:00PM. Its working title goes as is multidisciplinary association, focuses on the need of the veterinary profession to band all disciplines together in order to further uplift the needs and lives of our rural and provincial farmers as well as the needs of pet lovers throughout the country.

"The VPAP 29th Annual Scientific Conference committee for it's conference of "new and updated ideas - a new place online are other to the country." There will be over 40 scientific papers and symposium on the aquatic line of 2010. DA Secretary Proceso Alcala is the invited keynote speaker. Veterinarians from the country and from all around the world to attend this yearly event due to a wide variety of some relevant issues.

Microtel
Hotels · Resorts

Globe, SingTel launch undergraduate scholarship program

GLOBE TELECOM with its shareholder Singapore Telecommunications Limited (SingTel), launched the SingTel Undergraduate Scholarship Program in the Philippines. It aims to support and develop next generation leaders in the field of business and infrastructure technology.

Launched in Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia with SingTel's local affiliates, the program is an opportunity to spot talents early for future leadership roles. The program is exclusively directed to undergraduate students of the De La Salle University in Jaki but runs it had 42 students, who passed initial screening, based on course/branch/university admission ranking.

A rigorous procedure involved paper screening, interview interviews, and leadership and behavioral assessments to select the top 12 finalist candidates.

From the 12 finalists, the top two students were awarded the scholarship, while the 3rd and 4th placers received book prize awards.

The top students received a full scholarship grant by SingTel and internship stint in SingTel, and the opportunity to be part of the Management Associate Program of SingTel or Globe upon graduation.

Globe president and CEO Ernest Cu said: "Our outstanding students were competent and the scholars deserving to receive the scholarships after undergoing extensive selection and evaluation. This will allow us to effectively pool talents and hone them into future business and IT leaders in the Asia Pacific while instilling them the values we espouse as an organization."

AT THE AWARDING ceremony are SingTel CEO International Wee Wang Chuang; book prize recipient Glen Quinto; scholarship recipient Marc Lim; book prize recipient Alec Maticulo, scholarship recipient Francis Palmares and Globe president and CEO Ernest Cu

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Essentially Thai at Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria

IN ONE time, place is not necessarily a barrier for an authentic dining experience. Seven farmers, Crowne Plaza's renowned international buffet restaurant will feature one of the most sought after cuisine in the world - Thai cuisine. Experience the culinary culture of Thailand through their spicy food, curing habits and typical Thai meals.

Rediscover the rare essence of Thai Cuisine through the culinary masterpiece of Inter-Continental Bangkok's most experienced chefs. For one exciting month, chef Jumpa Promsuk and chef Chaiklai Jaengsakdanon, will showcase the balance of exotic flavors from Thailand's Capital - Bangkok. Authentic Thai Cuisine will grace Seven Farmers Restaurant starting from May 23rd to June 24.

The Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria Thailand's culture through artisan, not-luck, is a rare occasion, Seven Corner has invited an authentic Thai painter to showcase the art of rendering Thai Umbrella Painting - a popular hand made souvenir made out of bamboo and hand painted parasol paper. Mr Boonie Chaisong's hypnotizing strokes will captivate you as the mesh bee paint brush using the umbrella's paper as canvas. Guests can take home the experience's first signature dishes in Seven Corners, the city's iconic food stalls, carts at every shops, Pad Thai stalls, noodle stands, fruit stalls and road side barbecues will be represented in the all in one-to-one stations. The restaurant's Thai Food Festival brings you Essentially Thai Food Festival for inquiries please call 633-7222 or e-mail fbl.crownmanila@ihg.com.

MICROTEL TARLAC'S MT. PINATUBO ADVENTURE

Now you can conquer the mighty Mt. Pinatubo by trekking and maybe hop in a canoe. Microtel Tarlac offers the perfect adventure with its day tour package of P1,500 per person inclusive of an overnight stay based on twin sharing with lunch and snack after the trek. So if you want a great adventure that allows you to explore some more spots, this is what Microtel Tarlac has to offer. Microtel is an international chain of brands under Wyndham Hotel Group. Other Microtel hotels are located in Baguio, Batangas, Batac ng Catanauan, Cavite, Davao, Malolos Bulacan and Puerto Princesa. All Microtels in the Philippines are managed by Microtel Development Corp, the hospitality arm of the Phinma Group. For reservations, please call (02)999-1111 / (045)982-1778, e-mail: tarlac@microtel.ph or log on to www.microtelphilippines.com for details.

Sarah

I've got a passion for fashion

But I feel my work isn't good enough, help!

Vicky

Dear Miss

If there's one thing I want you (and everybody else reading this) to know and understand, it's that in the beginning—no matter what field in industry you want to get into—generally speaking, your work isn't going to be phenomenal. Never has most beings, after all, not robots programmed to perform with precision from the start.

Quality comes with experience.

We just swapped my Philippine Fashion Week (PFW), so maybe I can use that as an example. There were 101 designers showing at PFW this season, and Vicky and I had to interview every single one of them.

Some are newer to the industry, presenting a collection for their first time. Others are veteran, credible designers who have been participating in PFW for years. Many of them used to have the same line as you: "What if my work just isn't good enough?"

Some designers had to make big decisions—leaving their careers as mates and bankers—all to pursue their love for fashion. At the beginning, they weren't the fabulous artisans we know today. But they had the courage to make that decision, and from then on, committed to learning and absorbing, and getting better with time.

My heart also whispers me heart rule: That could just be me, but in the event that it's true to you, too, you've got to listen.

My heart has always known what it wants. I see this because it was as long as I can remember. I've been recording mock-radio shows on cassette tapes, and cajoling together pre-pre-recording "hosts" and designs in the front room.

Remember asking the way my hand started telling me (very loudly!) I should do other things. I learned it the hard way, although I thought my heart had stopped speaking to me, it was only whispers.

ing, and I had to settle down quietly (in mediation, reflection, or prayer) to hear it and the din of my conventional brain.

Most of the stories we only get in your

Apply for the internship. Keep doing hot shoots. Learn.

That's how EDDU ARGUELLES EDPOST started.

Love,

Curtis

Good job in taking the initiative to learn about the industry. A lot of people who are interested in fashion usually don't put in the extra homework to research and crawl. Underestimating the job is a part of doing the job. You need to know the requirements of the job in order to do them correctly. Updating your knowledge is a great way to start.

I'm glad to hear you've been doing a lot of new shoots.

Some people think that the word "test shoot," wherein a team comes together to test out creative ideas, doesn't count. But the truth is, everything counts!

Every step is a necessary one to the goal. Every chance you take to improve your skills is important to the overall picture, so don't hesitate just because it's not published by a magazine or newspaper that it doesn't count. I've known of plenty of people who were practicing their skills through test shoots, only to have it published because a online-operated online-owned token.

Patience constantly, even if you do not see anything on the horizon, because chances are, when the opportunity shows up, you can grab it because you are confident about your skills. Shoot more, test more, go out and find ways to enhance your skill sets.

Don't be discouraged if you think nothing is happening. I've been in situations where I feel like I'm running forever for something to happen. Then you could get the very call three months out and be ordered you were ready for it. There's nothing more frustrating than having opportunities knock and saying, "Bitch, I can't do it yet."

Practice and act as if you're really in a professional. The first day of working as PFW, I turned to my assistant and said, "I don't want you to act like my assistant; just act like a producer because that's what you want to be anyway. Run the show like it's yours." In turn, she stepped up to the challenge of the job and poured with flying colors. She really acted like a TV producer.

And guess what? I've been recommending her to industry professionals since. I just realized then that when you act as if you are already in the position, you will automatically do the things that professionals do.

Believe you are great. We all need to hear this every now and then. It's a little confidence booster from those around us. But what's also important is telling yourself you are awesome.

Yes, you are starting, and yes, you will screw up along the way. It's okay. Keep your head up. I believe that if you always seek to learn from the best beings and you stick to having a good person through it all, you will succeed.

Good luck! And when you do become that awesome fashion stylist, I hope Sarah and I get to work with you.

—Vic

McDonald's Happy Meal and Kung Fu Panda 2: The Journey to Awesomeness Begins Here

The exciting team of awesome Kung Fu fighters is back only at McDonald's! Join Po and the rest of the gang in their journey to awesomeness with every McDonald's Happy Meal. Collect all eight characters and bring home the adventure of Kung Fu Panda 2.

See Po practice his balance on Mantis, learn from wise Master Shifu as he demonstrates his Kung Fu kicks, learn the agile moves of Monkey, Tigress, Viper and Crane from each fun and lovable character in every Happy Meal starting May 20.

More than the fun and adventure it brings, every McDonald's Happy Meal purchase comes with an automatic donation of 10 centavos to the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), the charity of choice of McDonald's and its program: Bright Minds Read (BMR) and Ruby Bukid. So get up an hour late and visit any McDonald's store nationwide to begin the journey to awesomeness.

Happy Meal

Telling time, the retro way

"DIGITAL vintage" seems to be the new style in watches, with the heavy influence of the 1980s. Team Image hosts old-school styles of the classic digital watch of the '80s, Timex 80.

The collection includes under the Timex 80 unit ensemble, Chrono among the Classic, Jumbo, Calculator, and Arcade Collections.

Available in both solid and marble color options, wonders from the Classic collection are the original set of vintage inspired watches from the high-end collection. The Jumbo collection is an oversized version of the classic originals.

The Calculator collection is a set of iconic retro-styled digital watches with calculator designs and function. These watches are available in both metal and plastic straps with various trendy colors and sizes to choose from.

The Arcade collection features eight games from long lost youthful, fun vibe, vividly exhibited by the watches' wonderful straps, with a range of colors and bold design patterns.

That form of the year, be it your new brightest as you trip back to the '80s with the timepieces of quality and innovation, Timex 80.

Timex 80 watches are exclusively available at Rustan's Department Store Makati.

It all falls down: understanding...

Dear [illegible]

another book class. I just felt like no one understood, and everyone was against me. I didn't feel worthy, but at the same time, my acting coach was a cry for help. Thankfully, my parents heard it.

Despite being so hard to listen to at that time, they were right through me and stood my depression in the eye and dealt with it because I couldn't. We trust I am forever grateful.

Unfortunately, not everyone has that kind of support system I did, and still do. It's a fact that people who have gone through a depression before are more prone to experiencing it again later on in life. I still have my phases, but right now, it ends with inspiration and revelry.

While a few patient people and enough time to work it out within myself, I handle it a lot better now than again, what about those that don't have the blessings I did and still do?

If you think a friend, sibling, cousin, or anyone you care about is going through a depression, go to their parents and talk to them about it. Tell them that it's not just teenage angst, they aren't just being difficult, and it's something that really needs to be addressed—soon.

Did you know that if left untreated, depression in teens can cause problems at home, substance abuse, criminal activity, eating disorders, low self-esteem, reckless behavior and, in worst cases, even suicide?

Do you know anyone who jokes about killing themselves, romanticizes death, or writes stories or poetry about their own death? Don't take them lightly, and help them seek help as soon as possible.

Unconditional support

How do you help someone, especially a teen who is depressed? Aside from suggesting that they seek professional help, you should make sure to offer your unconditional support. They may not want to talk to you, or answer too many questions, but knowing you're there for them will help.

Another way is by being consistent. If they ignore you or act inconsistent on your good intentions at first, keep trying. You need to build that trust and have them know that you are not planning to give up on them.

Lastly, listen to what they have to say, without judgment, and allow them to honor their feelings. Let them know it's ok to feel the way they do, and that their reasons for feeling them are valid.

Depression is not a pretty topic, and it is unfortunately not something a lot of people take seriously.

If more people did, though, and were more open about the topic, then there would be more awareness and help offered to those going through it—because some might not even realize that they are. Reminder that it can be cured with some time, professional help, and patience from supportive people.

2b LIFESTYLE

What I learned during OJT

By Angelica Ramores
Student contributor, UST

"MOST say that nothing beats experience, as my professor would say in the perfect learning tool. For some students, on-the-job training gives them a taste of the real world—a glimpse of what lies ahead after they graduate.

Three students share what they learned from their on-the-job training experiences, from a few tricks of the trade and bittersweet lessons, to the life principles they swear by.

"One of the most important things I've learned is that talent alone is not enough. It is important, but it is no guarantee of success. One must also be hardworking and should practice self-discipline. Excellence is important, too.

"I have lots of memorable experiences. One is traveling. In my line of work, I usually travel to different countries for inspiration or ideas for new designs. I attend different kinds of trainings and meetings with clients and producers.

"I learned to socialize a lot of things. I hardly have time for anything else. Even on weekends, I'm in the office. Kind really what you know, and remove the unknown. Simply put, begin at the beginning and then work on how to solve the problems one at a time."—Kaelle Abdiel, 23, Draftsmanship/Arts, Asian Pacific College

"I learned it's best to sit and show your best. Ask your boss if they have some work for you to do. You never know; they might love you after the internship or in the future. I think studying is harder than working. Outside the real world is easier than college."—Karen Ethan O. Espiritu, 20, Advertising Arts, Far Eastern University

Being diplomatic

"I learned through experience how to interact and communicate with people. Knowing how to handle and tackle different issues and will be diplomatic in how to act on and words is important. The ethics-competence of going to another country and facing issues that need to be addressed was quite memorable. Also, I was able to get a glimpse of how the United Nations works—where I met new people during the trip.

"It will be in starting in the real world. Being independent and figuring things out on your own. This also means having to deal with different people more often, so it is really good to know what you're doing, and to love it. All we can do as students is to learn whatever we can in school, be inspired, love the path we take, and finally do our best in everything we do, with a positive outlook in mind."—Kendy Adessa Valdez, 19, International Studies under the track of International Relations, with a Minor in Peace Studies, Mapúa Institute of Technology

KAREN Ethan Espiritu

KAELLA Abdiel

KENDY Adessa Valdez

Sweet in tangerine

Learn how to effortlessly wear the season's hottest makeup color

By Tavia Yang
Contributor

ONE of the makeup colors dominating the runways internationally and locally is orange. This bright, cheerful hue is used either as an intense finish on the cheeks or a vibrant pop on the lips.

While orange looks like a shade best left to makeup experts, the people behind Bench House thinks otherwise. During a special workshop held in Seoul by makeup artist Jess Mo As and product development manager Yeon Ju Il, we were introduced to the brand's interpretation of orange.

Aptly named Mist Tangerine, the collection is a mixed blend that complements yellow Asian undertones, while its smooth, creamy formula make the shades look pearl and approachable to those who want to don this trendy and flattering color, whether you're fair, tan-ners, or in between.

(MORE) A2

JILL is wearing VIP Jewel Darling Girl's Fit DRESS and Lovable Ring Pendant in Graduation Eyes #1 (Top and accessories, Forever 21)

PAT is wearing Sweet Mineral Lips in #1m and Cheek Ball Powder Blush, all from Mist Tangerine collection. Top and accessories, Forever 21

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2bU sneak peek:

Literature Love

Freeway's latest collection makes F. Sionil Jose's iconic body of work wearable

By Tarn Ying
Contributor

AFTER its initial foray into capsule collections featuring our country's celebrated artists from different media, Freeway is back again with a collection to honor one of the greatest Filipino writers of all time, National Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose.

Featuring snippets of his words on dresses, oversized shirts and graphic tees, this pocket collection makes for a great souvenir, a gift for relatives abroad or any bibliophile.

We asked Freeway owner Sherre Gotea co some questions about the collection.

Why did you choose F. Sionil Jose?

We chose F. Sionil Jose because of his accomplishment in the field of literature. His works have been translated into over 22 languages and it is an honor for us to feature our first living National Artist. We are able to listen to his thoughts and get an insight into his personality. But, Also, FSJ is an engaging, fun-loving and candid conversationalist.

Who designed the artwork for the collection?

We have a team of designers—graphic and fashion—who worked on the collection. We had to choose the right silhouettes for the right artwork, with the proper production technology that matches the artwork.

How did you go about securing the rights to feature FSJ?

We went to visit him at his bookstore, La Solidaridad Bookshop in Ermita. We explained to him our plans of featuring him and his works and asking his permission to do so. He and his wife appreciated the tributes we have done in the past to other National Artists, and they readily agreed. FSJ and his wife are very down-to-earth, and they truly have the interest of our country and its people at heart. Since that meeting, it has been a pleasure to work with them on this tribute.

HONORABLE TYPE. F. Sionil Jose's words make a splash on Freeway's latest National Artist Collection.

The collection will be in stores for June 1. Visit www.freeway.ph for more info.

Global fashion

Desert nomads, African hunters, and colorful Marrakesh inspire the 'Vision and Trends' collection at Philippine Fashion Week

By Annette S. Tayao

IT WAS an eclectic mix of collections that left no one empty at Philippine Fashion Week Holiday 2011's Sony Vaio two-part show, held May 14 at the SMX Convention Center, Pasay City.

"Design Fusion" and "Vision and Trends" presented works of 11 designers: Bo Peredo, Dos Pintado, Russell Villafuerte, Meljun Florencio, Herman Orbito, Arlee Lagat, Kinfoe Canada, Happy Andrada, Jaki Belarmino, Jun Garcia, Kenneth Chua, Sophie Dulay and Ito Go.

All to served as creative inspiration for designers Lagat, Fernando, Garcia, and Chua. Peredo's "desert nomads" wore billowy pieces in shades of brown and "greige" to combinations of gray and beige), and had tent-shaped silhouettes which "allow for the joy and ease of carefree movement."

Lagat, Project Runway Philippines Season 2 winner, titled his collection "An African Meaning," taking off from a story of travelers exploring African lands, having "encountered marvelous of cannibalism and black magic." His designs were found to mostly dark shades, ranging from wearable to over-fancy.

Vibrant collection

The colorful city of Marrakesh was Garcia's focus for his equally vibrant collection. Models outfitted down the runway in large tassels-printed gowns, which would most likely remind one of the city's unique buildings.

Orbito's was also inspired by architecture, but from the Byzantine era. His tailored, layered dresses in off-white were embellished with gold and crystals. Florencio's heavy black and navy pieces, a collection for those who can have skin, provided good contrast to Orbito's white set. Florencio's sheer shifts with puffy sleeves or voile were just so sexy.

Chua's metallic gowns were flowy, regal, and perfect for eveningwear. His set "pays homage to the film 'Inception,' with structured, multidimensional pieces...that exude the futuristic and an feel of Vegas."

Most futuristic collections were showcased by Canada, Go, Andrada, and Dulay. Andrada's designs drew a collection "wave" from the audience—silver-gray ensembles in interesting shapes, each punctuated with oversized headwear a la Lady Gaga. Andrada also went for silver-gray hues.

Go, who incorporated geometrical details into his pieces, brought the audience to the space age with his high-waisted, modular designs. Dulay used the game "Tekken Warriors" as her inspiration, with separates in triangular shapes and scarred shades.

Canada had a different take on the futuristic theme, playing more with floral designs and a vivid palette. Draping and quilting renewed this much pieces had a feminine touch.

The same draping techniques were present in Villafuerte's "head-to-toe" set, which had bright orange separates and one-piece creations. The bold experiment by the models immediately reminded one of models, which was exactly what Villafuerte wanted to capture—"the mystic exclusive character of a model's life."

RUSSELL VILLAFUERTE'S mesh-inspired collection

HAPPY Andrada

YEEJAY Herrera

DHEECO Canada

Being Superwoman –and doing it in style

Ruby Veridiano motivates young girls to seek inner beauty and develop a positive outlook in life by talking fashion and empowerment—in the same breath

By Vicky Herrera
Contributor

"RUBY Veridiano, glamour girl off to change the world." These words fill up the screen in her website feeds, and as I read more about what this inspiring 27-year-old Filipino-Chinese-American is creating, I am moved to join her on her mission to be empowerment and social change. But first, let me break down exactly what Ruby does.

Currently based in New York, Ruby is a makeup speaker, media personality, trainer specializing in social media and CEO for MYS TV North America. She launched her writing empowerment program, "The Glamour Ruby Diaries," like after-career last-first book, "Miss Universe."

For years, Ruby has touched many people with the girl at her workshops—inspiring them, meeting them, motivating, and these days she's a positive vision for their life.

Ruby has traveled throughout the United States to speak to countless, helping students develop a more positive approach to living in truth, love and purpose. She especially helps young women. In a time where beauty and fashion can dictate the minds of these young girls, Ruby sets out to empower them with inner strength with an emphasis on inner beauty.

RUBY Veridiano, glamour girl off to change the world

Change is possible

When I met Ruby, she was about to hold a discussion in an event, "The Meeting of the Minds Manila." As she talks about her work with a contagious passion, you do realize that, at the end of the day, change is really possible.

You mixed fashion with positivity and empowerment. How did you do that?

It took a lot of time to cultivate that vision, and many people believe in it. It never existed before, and it was such a challenge to a young person. I really loved fashion. When I moved to New York, what I noticed was that the people creating really great things in fashion were from Americans. I realized, "Who are the ones winning the biggest awards?" It was Alexander Wang, Philip Lim, and Derek Lam.

At the same time, when I was in college, I was really passionate about social change. I started off as a writer, as well. When I started learning about social movements and different kinds of culture, I began to use my writing as a form to talk about these ideas.

I asked myself, "How can I create these two worlds together?" I was a big fan, "Glamorous girl off to change the world," and it has to be in a way that's true to that mission.

It's difficult for people to see the connection. I guess it's because they're trained to put ideas of "Fashion" and "Empowerment" in separate buckets.

There are people who are using fashion as a means to empower a woman. When you look at designers like Vera Bradley now, he has a softer history in creating something that supported women's initiatives, like the first pantsuit. People don't really recognize that a pantsuit is a power statement. Fashion and social change have always been there.

There was a time I used for my Glamorously Diverse project. His name was Dr. Jo Machado. She was the first non-Caucasian model who was approved in western publications. When her image was used by iconic photographer Richard Avedon, she changed the concept of glamour. So I thought "Why don't we redefine the concept of glamour?" Before she came along, only white women were allowed in mainstream.

It didn't a form of social change, but—redefining the concepts of image and glamour and elegance is why can be done in fashion. So I guess in terms of fashion, social change it's not a new idea...it just hasn't been cultivated in a way that brings it to the mainstream.

Fashion was the way I chose to mentor ideas, because I was so inspired by it. My core was working with young communities.

Spoken word and poetry

In the "Glamorously Diaries," what topics did you discuss?

Mostly arts and education. I was a former spoken word artist. I tried to go into schools to use spoken word and poetry to get them to talk about things that matter to them. In the United States, racism is really big—dealing with gender differences, sexuality...and they don't know how to talk about it because no one taught them in the classroom. Spoken word was a way to demand their ideas and their voices. Poetry and spoken word gave them that power.

Tell me about your book "Miss Universe."

It came out in 2006. I self-published the book. I compiled all my work, and was on it. It kicks because when you're surrounded by positive people, they really want to see you succeed. Those are people that come from my experience as a young woman. I named it "Miss Universe," and people were like, "Oh you're so cute"...and I said, "That's the point."

I think young women were trained to think of everything in life as if it were a pageant, and the only thing that matters is what we wear and how we look. Our achievements and our self-image. Channeling all these insecurities and writing about them from my heart. I was really scared at first, as it was so personal, but at the same time, I knew it was a cool thing. It was about documenting a young woman's struggles, and also about being a young Filipina in America.

Every woman goes through self-image issues, and we can't blame them for that. That's what the "Glamorously Diverse" is about. How do we redefine glamour to be inclusive? How do we help our young women of these things? We can feed into media, and we also need to be empowered about what we consume. How can we create a culture of empowerment...where people start to think for themselves?

What's the most rewarding thing about your job?

Connecting with a lot of people. I see a lot of the girls I work with really grow. I feel like the self-generation is going to be taken care of. I think it's finding other people who have the same purpose. Because we are realizing we aren't the only ones trying to make a change—it touches us on a personal level and that's really the thing. We do this for love.

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First day chic

Rustan's helps you make a good impression on your first day

Whether you're entering the workforce or finally meeting that newcomer you've always dreamed of, Rustan's gets you style-ready as you make a lasting impression on your first day.

Just the trend on campus with Rustan's roster of styles from its various collections from Strong Adidas, which Rustan's homegrown brand G complements a freshman's lifestyle with its hip designs for boys and girls.

Denims are always on top of the list of staples. Young Adults has a varied denim selection from international brands like Guess of Humanity and 7 Brand.

For graduates out to make it in the real world, the tried khakis and a crisp white shirt can be perfect for easy days at work, and when matched with a striking belt, can get you ready for that big meeting.

Singaporean's clean lines and essential design elements make a great new addition to your growing office wardrobe. FCUK's latest collection full of colors and patterns add fun to a corporate get-up, while Fashion Conspiracy and Gilda Peixoto's dungaree pieces take the fashion savvy from day to night.

Features houses such as Bebe Plus and Hudson affordably sold flair to your shopping look.

Investing in the accessories also is important, with key accessories from Bilabel, Caroline, and Mynki.

Men find comfort and confidence in the basics. Denim long-sleeved shirts solid color t-cuts offer basic plain staples with choices from James Polo Polo, Hudson, Oleg Cassini, and Rustan's exclusive labels Dacomolle and Black Label Homme.

Genuine Hill, together with Natrica, Jean Louis Scherrer, and Joseph Abboud, carry small leather goods and accents for an elegant touch when wearing formals.

Sophistication is also seen in crisp black leather shoes for men from Bacconolle, Black Label Hanta, Oleg Cassini, and Hagensen.

All brand are available at Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower Annex, Rustan's Alabang Town Center and Rustan's Cebu.

Sweet in tangerine

Face:

Prep skin by applying a primer. This will make your makeup go on better and last longer.

Even out red spots and uneven patches by patting on BB cream. Short for blemish balm, these medicated tinted moisturizers are formulated to be sheer and lightweight, ideal for our humid climate.

Eyes:

For a natural look, you can blend gold or a soft orchid-red and use the more orange shade as a contour shade—it'll look more natural, as against using brown to define your crease. Try using the orange shimmer as an entire wash by applying it on your entire lid.

Follow up with a thin, finely drawn line across your lashline, and apply two to three coats of mascara on curled lashes—the lash lashes will stand out against your tangerine lids.

Cheeks:

Lightly dust on the top of cheekbones and finish off with a shimmery gold highlighter on top of the blush—it will give flushed cheeks depth and definition.

Lips:

Looking for the perfect shade of orange lipstick to flatter you? Try this handy trick: white in the shade you want to use. Apply one shade to the left side of your mouth, and another on the opposite. Use a tissue or your hand to cover the other half of your face to see how the lip color looks against your skin. A flattering lip color will have an instant brightening effect on your complexion.

Tips for wearing orange:

Don't go overboard! Focus on one part of your face that you'd like to highlight. Whether it's the eyes, cheeks, or lips.

Shade Mineralized at GF SM Megamall Bldg. if you'd like expert help. Visit Bobbi Brown Studio at SM Megamall Bldg. if you'd like expert help. Visit their website at www.bobbibrown.ph

Style hunt

How these kids dress up for the day—and where they get their style inspiration

Text and photos by Roman Cueto
Contributor

Area Cerro 17, DLS-CSB
"I'm a big fan of Zara."

Janine Latha, DLS-CSB
"I'm a big fan of Harajuku fashion. I got my clothes from Japan."

Kathleen Lacquaita, 15, OB Montessori
"I'm interested in taking up fashion design in the future."

Issa Calinesores, 18, ADMU
"I don't stress over my outfit too much. Since school can be stressful, I always like loose but neat outfits."

Jonathan Angel
"I look at the versatility of pop artists and transpose it into something wearable."

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Max Iross follows in his actor-dad's footsteps /G4

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rica P. Aello

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Lady Gaga returns with dance-floor scorchers

By Rica P. Aello

GAGA. Mixed feelings about her new album

WITH THE release of "Born This Way," Lady Gaga returns with an album whose music is as big (and loud) as its theme—and which's not more, nor less, than a big thing.

The 25-year-old singer's sophomore effort bursts with exhilarating dance tunes (the unshakable "Electric Chapel," "Bad Kids" and the scorching-in-the-knickers floor jam punctuated by choir vocals) to show just how much she's come a long way.

From the moment she tells herself a "monster queen" who's "riddled to my own emptiness" (in the thumping opener, "Marry the Night"), Gaga dictates a monocular undying power of her glitter- rock-inspired genre, which boasts a heady fusion of retooled '80s Jeanie music and electronica ("Highway Unicorn," "The Edge of Glory").

Revenge

The lyrical's attention-grabbing edge, thematic protestations and Gaga's many contortions will keep you listening and guessing—from the accidentally satirical "Judas," about love, betrayal and revenge ("I'm in love with Judas/ I'm just a lady/ And I can be cruel sometimes"), to the punk-rock-meets-New Wave-the-ramifications of "Government Hooker" ("Put your hands on me, John F. Kennedy/ I'll make you wiped as long as you pay me/ I'm gonna drink my tears tonight/ Cause I know you love me").

It's hard not to notice the pop-philiation between pop music's foremost provocateur and her '80s predecessor Madonna. Select the "Virgin"-like swagger of "Schoolin," the "Express Yourself"-like sensibility of "Born This Way" the various references to JFK, show tunes (see Liza Minnelli's "Mascara" ("Americano"), Gaga's visual flair and sartorial reckless wares, their lunacy (look-heavy appointments, etc.)

The grinding, pounding and shaking hooks and boom-clout let up until the climactic last 40 (!!!) cut, "You and I," an ocean ballad that beautifully shows Gaga in moments of revealing vulnerability—though, "Love is Blind" is not.

Advocacies

In "Born This Way," "the greatest album of the decade," as Gaga boldly declared recently? Not really. We love the singer's advocacies in support of the Little Monsters in all of us—but, the collection lacks thematic focus, and some of the songs are too Aliens-y-ish to be appreciated by everyone.

Moreover, in the end result, there are no glittering unicorns, chicken cones and chrome domes that would help us get through life's inconveniences.

Just the same, in the transcendent scene, "Born This Way" reigns supreme—and Lady Gaga is the crowned queen!

Irate producers call Charlie Sheen's bluff

By Nestor U. Torre

HATCHED. Inspired conversation

WHEN CHARLIE Sheen peevishly and cheerfully announced that he was quitting his hit sitcom, "Two and A Half Men," members of the US TV industry were entirely unconcerned. What, give up the most popular show on television that paid him the top price of around $1.2 million per episode? The guy must be nuts!

Well, it looks like Sheen is going to remain "nuts" on a permanent basis, because the show has decided to call his bluff, and has announced the replacement—Ashton Kutcher.

No option

There was a time when Sheen was hunting. And he avoided his job back, but that's no longer an option as far as his former producers are concerned, because he's deemed too much and they've had it up to here—and, who can blame them?

Nobody values his replacement by Kutcher was announced. Sheen immediately predicted that the show's ratings would plummet, because his younger replacement simply doesn't have his comedic mojo. But, critics and perhaps most objective observers, including this writer, don't agree.

We think that the show's producers have come up with an inspired countermove, and that "Two and A Half Men" will do quite nicely from here on in without Charlie Sheen, thank you very much.

First is...Ashton is an slacker in the roles, comedy and popular- ity department. The "boy" has hated of Demi Moore is popular in his own right, because he's starred in his share of romcoms, and it looks like there's no place for him to go but up.

As for Charlie, he's millions of dollars poorer, with no TV prospects in sight or his—and which remains. Which producers with his head screwed straight would "cave in to crude, rude, a walking, talking head stole the lines?

True, Kutcher is getting a sizable paycheck (less than a million bucks) than Sheen, but there's life for viewers. And after he proves himself as a ratings-maker in his own right, that amount is sure to increase.

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Aga rekindles 'fire in the belly'

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW THAT Aga Muhlach's latest starrer, "In the Name of Love," has effusively and even definitively reestablished him as the best dramatic actor on the local film scene, some movie buffs have been trying to figure out what gives him the edge over other and younger male leads like Piolo Pascual, John Lloyd Cruz and Gerald Anderson. I hope these omniposters mean no ill some help.

First off, what makes Aga's portrayal in his latest movie exceptional is the new commitment and "go-for-broke" attitude that he brings to it. For his love song, he's been the top male dominant lead second, but still in his unlikely and even unsought role.

In a result, his recent performances have tended to be rather predictable—a real pity, since Aga has shown in some of his early portrayals that he's got it in him to be an exceptional actor in films.

"In the Name of Love" is a landmark movie in his career, because he's rekindled the "fire in the belly" in again some up with a memorable and dramatic

MAHLACH (RIGHT) WITH LUCSING, Self-effacing beauty

cally insightful portrayal that need to make him more than just a pretty face in his youth.

True gift

It could be the fact that he's already in his 40s and mastering both as a person and an artist that has "reminded" him of his true gift and "duty" as an actor.

Whatever the reason, he has clearly decided to focus, not on his on-screen image and reputation charm, but on the character he's playing, period.

Since the characters in so many shows, Aga has "allowed" his ego to draw to certain scenes, and this "ennobling" stance has added immeasurably to his professional and even personal stature.

Since the character has all sorts of inner personal, psychological and ethical problems to contend with, Aga's still reliable leanness makes his dazzling histrionics make the dazzling and even emotion-ridden viscerally real, and that much easier for viewers to understand, empathize with and learn from.

The big "deal" of the actor's exodus is the key and extended scene in which he finally reveals to forged Lourdes character how deeply hurt and angry he feels about what he perceives to be his emotional disloyalty and duplicity.

Challenging scene

As Aga launches into the emotionally challenging scene, we see him reach certain "landmark" points that, in his perspicacity "valet" portrayals, he would have stopped at.

But, to rigorous in the roots, Aga didn't let up and even Olivia Lamasan have chanted his characters that, instead of stopping, he just keeps going.

One dash moment leads him to an even darker and more painful level, which then takes him lower still, until it's the very soul of his tormented character that we are gazing at, and deeply feeling for.

Having bravely descended to to the very pit of "hell," where good looks and youth are quite frankly irrelevant and even disarming, Aga finally emerges as the other side of his character's painful journey of exploration and brutally honest self-revelation, triumphant and transformed.

Front page G1

It's logical that the hit shows will continue to do well even without Moon. Yes, charlie was in makeup "engine," but the show has retained its very smart and superviewed production team, so it's fair to bet that they will make it shabby and even triply sure that their sitcom, with its new star, will be at least as funny and popular as before. That would be such news

MORE ON

Max Irons . . .

From page G1

"Being Julia," in his late teens was also nerve-wracking. "I auditioned for the part that went to Tom Stoppard," he candidly volunteered. He duel was in the main cast. "At the time, I had just finished school when I was toying with the idea of going to drama school. I was offered the part of a suicide-call boy, who had three lines—and all delivered to Annette Bening! It was pretty much the most terrifying experience of my life. I suddenly realized that, even though I'd done theatrical pieces at school, I really had no idea what I was doing!"

Busy place

"The film set is a busy place, and unless you know what they're doing, it's terribly distracting," he explained. "Even though my part in 'Being Julia' was small, and wasn't a complicated one, I still found it pretty much what made me go, 'Okay. I've got to invest in those three years of drama school.'"

Blair hated an interesting Facet of Amanda Seyfried that he learned when they worked together in "Red Riding Hood." "Amanda is a dream to work with," he begin. "She's beautiful and incredibly talented. She loves to tell jokes, especially extremely obscene ones, all the time! I remember my first take on the set. It was my first big movie, and there were 200 people around. There, just before the camera started rolling, Amanda started asking me about my sexual proclivities! That scrapped my whole first take, but that's not the way she likes to work."

When he's not in front of cameras, Max dabbles in music. "I play the guitar," he disclosed. "I used to perform at schools—and, once, I played for friends of mine's parents." He sang a Jim Harper hole to wow a girl. "'With irony' is a nice song, very emotional," he stated. "I sang it to impress a girl. I thought I did quite a good job. But, years ago, a close friend of mine said to me, 'Remember when you sang at school? You were s—y!'"

As is being tagged as the next Robert Pattinson, Max remained cool. "I don't know Robert personally (he's British), and he's very talented. So, it's an honor to be compared to him."

Looking into the future, Max hopes to make it on his own, to the point where his achievements—not his parents' careers—will be the basic his mind. "Hopefully I can eventually make people forget, or at least stop it from being such a talking point!"

E-mail rmagsin_5565@yahoo.com

Irate producers call Charlie Sheen's bluff

Animated sequel takes a step in the right direction

By Nestor Torre

THE WISECRACKING panda hasn't lost his charm.

WAS THERE ever any doubt that a version (sorry, wisecracking panda—a martial arts factory turned kung fu wonderer—would fail to be anything but awesome?

Of course there was, but "Kung Fu Panda 2" still pulls it off—because, while Po, the panda, whose fate has spared no justice as much as his animals counts, the storyline, is not longer the novelty he once was. He has lost none of his charm.

We can't quite as likable here as he used to, however—what with the sequel going down darker roads than its predecessor. Directed by Jennifer Yuh Nelson, this installment deals with Po (Jack Black) having to confront past tragedies, all of which have something to do with a mysterious peacock. Good Shen (Gary Oldman), who's armed with weapons that "breathe fire and spit metal," and is set on ending Kung fu and taking over China.

Joined by the furious Five—Tigress (Angelina Jolie), Monkey (Jackie Chan), Mantis (Seth Rogen), Viper (Lucy Liu) and Crane (David Cross)—Po sets out to put a stop to Shen's plan. There are quite a few flashbacks and dream sequences here, mostly done in 2D, which further enhance the movie's already vivid visual palette. The prologue, where Shen's story is told in puppet-theater form, is particularly inspired.

Visually, the movie enhances what was already excellent in the original, mixing its own form Chinese landscape paintings as much as from classic movie films. The addition of 3D, in fact, is especially nice, and if you're wary of cramping on dream, be sure to sit too close—or it can get pretty overwhelming (and not in a good way).

Dramatic scenes

Story-wise, however, the film isn't quite as focused as the first movie. It labors in the telling, with the amount of metaphors, inner dramatic scenes sometimes broken awkwardly by a not always well-timed quip or visual gag.

Still, this movie weaved greater depth and themes not often explored in typical blockbuster fare for children (adoption and genocide, among others) in a way in the right direction.

There are plenty of good jokes, one-liners, and laugh-out-loud moments. People must be given to the voice actors, as well. Particularly noteworthy are Black grinning over disastrous—Oldman in the menacing yet tragic villain, and Michelle Yeoh as a comforting, nurturing, strong post.

The son also rises

ROI ICHII is the youngest son of Rico J. Puno and Dodo Yuson, and the brother of Enrico, Enrique and Dodoi. He looks like his lovely mother. He's nice, handsome and has a good physique. As a singer, Roi prefers singing rock 'n' roll tunes and songs from the '80s.

Band

Today at 4 p.m., at the Grupo Repuso Tablao Dining Street in the Bonsai Festival, Roi and his band, composed of Francis Salazar, Jorge de la Cruz, Zach Bernardino and Ray Sta., will perform a exciting repertoire that includes "Sorry Na, Parando Ba?," "Magkaisa ng Buong Lahi," "Hindo Ganyan," "I'll Be There" and "Every Breath You Take."

The festival's other performers are Ana Santos, Noel Cabangon, Heber Bartolome, the UP Singing Ambassadors and Tonton Archuleta. The event is hosted by Pinky Amador.

Starting at 10 a.m., the public is invited to partake in The activities of Tablao Dining Group, including soon-to-be-launched Grupo Repuso, the epitome of Subay Mario, and the sweet children of Vehicon Foundation.

Other items: Award-winning French Chico will be crowned as Alfonso Francisco de Filmalli and Roman. And, at 8 p.m., Ferdinand Cavalo's solo exhibit, "Cityscapings," will be launched at the GH Ad Pavilion.

* * *

Join the Bad Sampaguita Photo Contest. The winning picture will be featured in a Chronicle exhibit and included in "The Book of Sampaguita." Visit mypdi.sunstarpinoy.com, or call 899-1781.

PATRIL Fer-ing repertoire.

Fear of empty spaces—and silence

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME CULTURAL anthropologist (or critic) the Filipino as a lover of noisy activity and hectic goings—but shudders with horror-eyes, at silent of empty spaces.

Nowhere is this more evident than on comedy TV shows, the sets and other visual elements of which are full of often clashing colors and "work-to-avail" people.

Television directors, masters and others of subtle hints and advantages are for the Japanese, who can experience on screen the world of beauty and meaning in the few seconds of a haiku.

The Filipino isn't a delicate poem, he's...a purpose-complete with a cretin. He enjoys the presence of excessive paint, elaborate, plastic and other garish appurtenances and attachments, the better to delight and astound the profession (and jeering people wearing tattoo ads).

Tenets

Even in TV dramas, camera shots tend to be full of faces, all crammed into one long shot. Eye-twinkling leaves on the tenets of dramatic focus, contrast and artistic selectivity.

Why does everybody have to be in the shot all the time? Partly because one tenet states: everybody "important" on a literal rather than artistic level. "If I'm in the shot, even if I'm not doing or saying anything, then I'm still part of the show's dramatic action (even if much to tell, I'm really not)."

Many days, the excesses of horror seen here oscillated over the mouth-licks of our telenovelas. Have you noticed? It's become fashionable for drama stars to have their own specially composed tracks for background musical scoring—and, in complete keeping with our love of security and silence, the musical scoring is on loud and busy.

As a result, quite a number of shows are hard to listen to, because their music and sound effects are so distracting. Why is there so much music employed in our TV dramas? Sometimes, it's used to cover up unnecessary sounds during location shoots.

Mood

Short edits, however, it's used to "emotional blackmail," to quickly get viewers in the "right" mood.

You would think that the shows would rely on their actors to provide the required empathetic emotionalizing, but their performances may not be deemed dependable dramatic enough to produce the desired effect, so the scoring has to do—really loudly.—How ironically and badly most good (or bad) TV is!

Incidentally, the "surrounds" use of music has polluted even some of our radio shows, with some announcers playing a record as background music even during conversations, interviews and news items!

What they do is quickly up the music's volume whenever they take a breath, as a sort of "punctuation mark" for whatever is being said.

Here, again, is the Filipino's fear of empty spaces and silence in full display, and taken to its absurd lengths—or depths. Everybody shut up or pipe down, please!

Special... Irate producers

Viewpage B4

Each participant must write a description of the audience in 500 words or less ("Who My Shows Are Aiming To Be Most") to be submitted to Coach Commissioner. Interested call 992-1434, e-mail mayo@viewpoint.com.ph or [illegible] mob.com.ph.

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Max Irons follows in his actor-dad's footsteps

MOVIE: Is he the next Robert Pattinson?

LOS ANGELES—It must be tough to be an aspiring actor when you're the son of actors. Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack. Max Irons, 2nd cousin to "Mad Ballerina Mood," it'll be first nice to admit it.

"I think it's a disadvantage," said the younger of the two sons of forming the highly respected British thespian who has been variously awarded Academy, Golden Globe, Emmy, Tony, the Screen Actors Guild—the veteran actor has three trophies, and more.

Almost herself has won several theater awards and was nominated for the Tony and Laurence Olivier Awards by A. Gwyn Bond's book about Katharine Hepburn to be quoted the legendary actress in saying about Sinead, "She cried Mr.Cop—one of the most exciting actors I've ever seen."

"Perhaps there are casting agents out there who would get me in the room, because who my parents are prepare them admired," said Max, who, at 6'2", is taller than his dad. "But, I'd be lying if I say I got a role because of my parents. Where you find yourself in an audition, there's an experience had upon you. We all have bad days. It's in a confidence audition, and they know who my parents are, they'll never forget it. So, I have to work harder."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert U. Segundo

Nepotism

"Also, in England, nepotism is despised, and rightly so," added Max, who is dating "Sucker Punch" actress, Emily Browning. "So, you've also got to work against that."

But, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama graduate was quick to emphasize, "I am very proud of my parents and values they've given me." He sprinted in on his breakout movie "Here's doing theater primarily, but also recently did the TV series, 'Camelot.'"

As to what kind of type his dad gave him about surviving show business, Max replied, "He gave me advice about the business aspect of acting. He warned, 'Keep your eye on what's important.' And, to remember that you're an actor—you need to pay attention to the acting, not the hime, photo shoots or interviews. It's a good piece of advice. He also reminded me to have fun. But, when it comes to the technicalities of acting, it's like when your parents give you driving lessons...you know they're right, but you want to tell them to shut up!"

Max's many into the limelight was consensus of uncovered photographer, Mario Testino. But, he chuckled how he was spotted by Mario, "It's not true that he chatted me up on the street," Max stressed. "I came from a DVD store with my girlfriend, and he and his friend had an argument there about what to rent—romantic comedy versus science fiction."

Argument

He continued, "So, afterward, we were walking on the streets of Notting Hill. She was on one side of the street, and I was on the other. We were dramatically having a false argument, when this big, black SUV pulled up, and this man got out of the car. He said, 'Hello, I'm Mario, a photographer. I'd like you to come and have a chat with me sometime.' It's very cool." I was like, 'Okay, thank you very much.' Then, he drove off." Mario shot Max, alongside Kate Moss, for Burberry ads and other campaigns.

A modest guy who likes to use the word, "terrifying," Max admitted, "Spiderman was terrifying!"

He summer who grew up with famous parents, Max revealed that one of his first walks on the red carpet was, well, "terrifying." About two years ago, I went to the Golden Globe Awards," he recalled. "I was scared! Every time leaving a drink, then you see Leonardo DiCaprio! I felt I had no reason to be there at all!"

He also loved Bud as long as his first movie.

ENJOY: 61

PLDT MYDSL'S AWESOME HUNT: THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST ONLINE ADVENTURE!

OVER 500,000 ADDITIONAL MYDSL LINES ARE NOW AVAILABLE, AND YOUR FAVORITE CELEBRITIES AND BLOGGERS EXPLORED THE NATION TO HELP SPREAD THE WORD.

The PLDT myDSL's Awesome Hunt set eight celebrity/blogger teams off in search of some of the nation's best gems on April 7, and made travelogues on PLDT Watchpad for a shot at winning some very cool prizes. After thousands of online votes and the judges' scores were tallied, the Winners Party at Republiq on May 14 revealed which team deserved the ultimate prize.

Awesome Hunt winners Su Ueja Jojo and Jane Chua of Team Pixel each got P50,000 a one-year PLDT myDSL subscription, and prizes from Awesome Hunt partners a Sony DSLR, Sony Cyber-shot, roundtrip tickets for two to Cebu from Cebu Pacific, and a getaway courtesy of Yellow Cab Pizza Co.

Awesome Hunt Winners Party

Awesome Hunt Team Cardo Uden Dimz and Ace Pons with Sam Subido of Sony Home Center and other superjets at the Winners Party

PLDT myDSL Xavier Pendel Nenzel Wu, PLDT myDSL Product Manager Adrian Lim-Sy Chuck and Eric Rueger's Mary Grace

PLDT Watchpad Core member Bianca Gonzalez with Awesome Hunt judge and Mega Magazine Editor-in-Chief Ramon Tulfo

PLDT myDSL Consultant Ling Cerdo, Jillian Ward and Jeremy Marquez at the awesome hunt Winners Party

Awesome Hunt Kick-Off

Ms. Alice C. Villanueva-Ho, PLDT Head of Consumer Business Unit (C) Enrique Razon and Sam Subido's Debra Mariano at the Awesome Hunt kick-off party in Tagaytay

Marian Rivera and Dan Matthews at the Awesome Hunt kick-off party in Tagaytay

Sharlene Bautista, Lee Nadal, Pilar Hechanova, and Tricia Romero gave the Awesome Hunt teas off

Luis Manzo with PLDT myDSL team ambassador Kristi Kleinert

Awesome Hunt Kick-Off

Marian Rivera and Dan Matthews at the Awesome Hunt kick-off party in Tagaytay

Sam Subido's Debra Mariano and Sharon Cuneta get some of the world's largest slice in Sardinia

Mark and Kim Cuts Aviso Cayago and Kristi Kleinert at the Great Barrier in Lagaro Island in Indonesia

Team Extravaganza Tim Yap at Jiro and Team Pixel's Jane Chua at Handuman Bay in Port Barton, Palawan

Check out the highlights from the Awesome Hunt plus 17 free television channels by logging on to www.pldtmydsl.com. Watchpad is free with your PLDT myDSL 799e Plus plans.

Special pilgrimage for Divine Mercy devotees

SAINT FAUSTINA: Initiated the devotion to the Divine Mercy

ON SEPT. 28, Alicia Ongkeo's Journeys of Faith Catholic Pilgrimages and Concert has organized a special pilgrimage for devotees of Divine Mercy devotees who want to attend the Second World Apostolic Congress on Mercy in Krakow, Poland, including visits to other places in Poland and the Czech Republic (October 11).

The pilgrimage starts in Warsaw, Poland. On Sept. 30, visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw, on to Krakow for a trip to the domestically inspiring Wieliczka Salt Mines. Then proceed to the venue of the Divine Mercy Congress for the inauguration and presentation of researches.

MONTAGE

Various spiritual and liturgical highlights in the congress surrounding days include: concelebrated mass, vespers at the ancient Angelus with the Holy Father Benedict XVI and Jan Pope's message for the congress' participants, meetings at Krakow's parishes, a visit to the relocated sites of the world to the Divine Mercy.

On Oct. 6, pilgrims visit the Sanctuary Kiraly Hvezdy in Censtochowa, Then on to Pilsen for a relatively underrated gem some call the Venice of Poland. Then to Prague, to the Czech Republic such as truly beautiful views, gothic and baroque buildings and cobblestone streets, calm staring in Hours at the Church of Our Lady before Tyn, where the Astronomical Hlihs de Prage is enshrined.

After a visit to the medieval town of Cesky Krumlov, the pilgrimage ends at Pribram and the historic pilgrimage site at Svata Hora.

For other details, contact (632) 929-3161, mobile no. 0917 901 4483, fax no. (632) 426-7395, e-mail jhospeaceny@gmail.com, or visit www.journeysofcouple.com.ph. Deadline for registration is on May 31, so please call soon.

Bailey Kalaw concert

Violinist Gino Martinez and pianist Mary Ann Espinal perform on May 20 at Bailey Kalaw at the University of the Philippines. The program includes compositions by Dvorak, Granados and Felix. Call (02) 740-4132.

Search for Mother of the Year

Ascof's Search for Mother of the Year is ongoing until Oct. 2 at SM Supermalls.

SPECIAL 61

SATURDAY Special

Streep, Branagh tackle new challenges

By Nestor U. Torre

IF YOU were Meryl Streep, after practically a lifetime of thespic triumphs, you would be forgiven for wanting to rest on your laurels, right? All those awards and other honors she's accumulated over the years would make which and comfy bed, you bet.

But, being the once-blue acted she is, Streep has no option to go on down from film acting just yet. Thanks very much. After all, so many great characters and acting challenges are waiting in line for her masterful services.

For instance, Streep is currently filming a movie on the life and times of Margaret Thatcher, Britain's only female prime minister to date. A formidable woman, Thatcher needs a good woman acted like Streep to do her justice—and the actress isn't ducking from the challenge, but is embracing it with all the passion, creativity and painstaking research it requires.

Versatility

Streep is famous for her chameleon-like versatility, which enables her to totally change the way she looks, sounds, moves, thinks and feels to "become" an entirely different person.

Most recently, her inspired personification of celebrity chef, Julie Child, won plaudits—and an acting award. Since Thatcher is even more formidable (and "important," it's expected that Streep's characterization of her will be even more memorable and celebrated once the biopic is shown here this year.

For his part, Kenneth Branagh has presented himself with a similarly daunting thespic challenge by agreeing to play no less than the world's best actor, Laurence Olivier, in a new film about Olivier and Marilyn Monroe, when they were shooting a film together ("The Prince and the Showgirl"). Monroe is being played by Michelle Williams.

What about our own acting icons, what challenges should they tackle to feathers "stretch" their thespic muscles and limits?

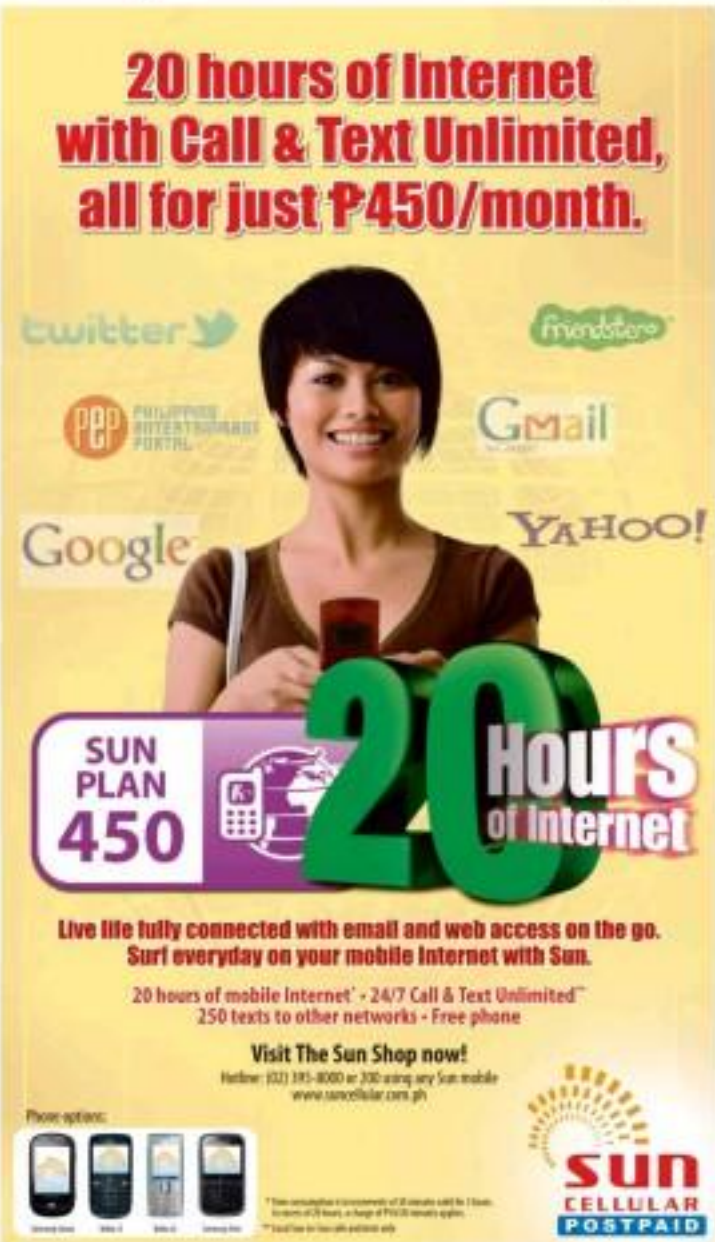
Major event

Should the Divine Actress return to the country this year, as promised, she should make a movie with Cogeo. Sir Vilma Santos. They appeared onscreen together decades ago, to great effect and acclaim, so it would be a major film event if they worked together again. One time as mature actresses.

Among our male thespians, we want to see Nonoy Gildon, Hush 123, Mario Ochoa, Robert Arevalo, Willie Revillame, Rolan Gonzales, Lee Raby and Tom Rodriguez together on the big screen.

Why that particular combination of our trending actors? Because we think they'd all turn in memorable albeit wildly divergent portrayals in a film about, say, all sorts of news in the appreciation and/or ungodly ignorance weight of their years—!

STREEP AND BRANAGH. Portray Margaret Thatcher and Laurence Olivier, respectively, in anticipated biopics.



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Key dates in entertainment, duly noted

By Nestor U. Torre

A NUMBER of key events are taking place in the world of entertainment that should be duly noted by TFAnet folks.

Last May 25, "Oprah" aired its final telecast, capping its host-producer Oprah Winfrey's 25th year as a daytime talk-show host—and reigning "queen."

Oprah gave her last season everything she had to make sure that she would exit with a big bang. However, the show's last two telecasts never kept to script from her by her Hispo producers-mates, she better to celebrate spontaneous reactions and emotions.

The great fan included Hanna Montes, in her first TV interview after death by husband, retired Schwarzenegger (after he belatedly confessed that he had fathered a 12-year-old son by a member of their household staff). Well, we can bet that a record number of avid viewers watched that telecast.

Even without the Hanna soap, however, Oprah's last show was a must-see for many viewers, who tended to flock by for practically single-handedly revolutionizing the daytime talk TV scene.

Her enlightened and enlightening show went way beyond the traditional "hair" bourgeois that used to characterize that time slot's content. In fact, it has inspired

"THE DESTINY OF MALLOWS, PART 1": The series has encouraged young people to develop their imaginations, creativity and sense of wonder.

WINFREY: Single-handedly revolutionized the daytime talk TV scene.

on entire generations of viewers to take a good, honest, unjaded look at themselves and work hard to discover and reach their true potential as human beings.

After achieving so much and changing so many viewers' lives for the better, Oprah could have gone into prosperous retirement. Instead, she's about to launch her own TV network!—The latter is apparently how more people, of course.

It's said that Steve Ottenstadt could stage a comeback on Oprah's new network, and that Winfrey has also offered Mayin Shatten her own program.—All the more reason, then, to keep watching the new TV network mavin's gambits as they keep coming...and coming!

Last 'Potter' premiere

Another notable date is July 7—that's the day when the "Harry Potter" movie, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2," will premiere nationwide. That officially marks the conclusion of the decade-long "Harry Potter" book and film franchise, the current most profitable series of fantasy-adventure movies ever.

JK Rowling's dream about the boy wizard, Harry Potter, and his many adventures and close encounters has made her the world of literature's first billionaire author. The film franchise hasn't done badly, either, with more than $6 billion in gross receipts!

Thespians breathed life into love-triangle tale

By Bobo Concepcion

IT WAS 1974, and I had just been released from Camp Crame. JD Espinosa was scheduled to stage Ricardo Demetillo's Palanca-winning play, "The Head of Raymundo is Black," about a love triangle.

In Demetillo's head version of "Carmelo," the celebrated Dida Sandoval ignored her boorish wife, Espinosa-gon, in his pursuit of social reform in Pasay. He contrasted her young wife to her stepson, Carmelo, a young, idiot who is a naturalist through-and-through, with tragic results.

Talented

I was then working closely with the late Gino Emilio Arnaiz, Sally Tabbot Bass and painter Jerry Elizalde Navarro—until all of us began work on interest in the production that tickled their province's historical past.

Vilma Monreal portrayed the tragic Espinosa-gon. Despite a heart-breaking load, she put her heart and soul in to the role and turned in a stunning performance. Ben gualtan's, Teddy Hosmos, was cast as Gumabon.

I needed a motion that type actor to play the thinking Gino-esque-ing. Domingo Cortambler auditioned—but, he was still too inexperienced.

Luckily, he had sensitivity and the humility to work hard and take my instruction with more than a grain of salt.

TWOSHADES 04

COMMANDMENT: Monreal drew her performance in Jose Rizal's "Jugtan."

Ayala Malls

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
10:00, 11:40, 1:20, 3:00, 4:40, 6:20, 8:00, 9:40, 11:20 pm
2) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30 pm
3) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
11:00, 12:35, 2:15, 3:55, 5:35, 7:15, 8:55, 10:35, 12:15 pm
4) FAST FIVE
10:40, 12:20, 2:00, 3:40, 5:20, 7:00, 8:40, 10:20, 12:00 pm
5) IN THE NAME OF LOVE
11:40, 1:20, 3:00, 4:40, 6:20, 8:00, 9:40, 11:20, 12:00 pm
6) KUNG FU PANDA 2
10:00, 11:40, 1:20, 3:00, 4:40, 6:20, 8:00, 9:40, 11:20 pm
7) DYLAN DOG
12:00, 1:40, 3:20, 5:00, 6:40, 8:20, 10:00, 11:40, 12:00 pm

GREENBELT 3

1) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 pm
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2
12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15, 12:15 pm

GREENBELT 5

1) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
3:00, 6:30, 9:30, 11:00 pm
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2
12:45, 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 pm
3) FAST FIVE
1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30 pm
4) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 pm
5) KUNG FU PANDA 2
1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 12:00 pm

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
12:20, 2:00, 3:55, 5:35, 7:30, 10:30 pm
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
1:30, 4:05, 6:30, 9:00 pm
3) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
12:00, 2:40, 5:30, 9:00 pm
4) FAST FIVE
1:05, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45 pm
5) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 pm

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
1:45, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25, 9:45 pm
2) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
1:15, 3:40, 6:20, 9:20 pm
3) KUNG FU PANDA 2
1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 pm
4) HALL PASS
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:10, 9:40 pm

MARQUEE

1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 8:00, 10:00 pm
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
11:40, 12:45, 4:05, 6:45, 9:05, 11:05 pm
3) ARTHUR
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:05 pm
4) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
12:00, 3:00, 6:10, 9:00 pm

MARKET! MARKET!

1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 pm
2) DYLAN DOG
11:30, 1:30, 4:20, 6:30, 9:30 pm
3) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
12:00, 3:00, 6:20, 9:00 pm
4) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
12:00, 3:00, 6:20, 9:00 pm
5) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
1:00, 3:30, 6:40, 9:30 pm
6) KUNG FU PANDA 2
12:00, 2:00, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00 pm
7) IN THE NAME OF LOVE
11:30, 1:30, 4:30, 6:30, 9:30 pm

TRINOMA

1) DYLAN DOG
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 pm
2) IN THE NAME OF LOVE
12:30, 3:45, 7:15, 10:30 pm
3) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES (3D)
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30 pm
4) KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 pm
5) FAST FIVE
11:45, 2:45, 7:00, 10:00 pm
6) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
11:00, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45 pm
7) KUNG FU PANDA 2
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 5:45, 7:30, 9:30 pm

ABREEZA

1) KUNG FU PANDA 2
1:45, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 pm
2) KUNG FU PANDA 2
12:15, 2:15, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 pm
3) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES
1:00, 3:30, 6:45, 9:30 pm
4) HALL PASS
12:30, 2:30, 4:45, 6:30, 9:00 pm

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NOW SHOWING

Johnny Depp, Penelope Cruz team up in action-packed 'Pirates' sequel

By Rex F Ante

THERE ARE fresh, addling swordfish, muscle-bound zombies, a fabled fountain that has restorative looking powers, and a legendary pirate in "On Stranger Tides," the fourth installment of the lucrative "Pirates of the Caribbean" film franchise. Now they've brought in life, however, their integrated sole: Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) latest rescued romance leaves much to be desired.

Curiously, as Sparrow embarks on another adventure, the franchise's other protagonists, Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley), are nowhere to sight and are never mentioned.

DEPP AND CRUZ. Pirx, titular seafarers awards in "On Stranger Tides."

Prophecy

In "On Stranger Tides," Jack is tricked into joining an expedition searching for the Fountain of Youth led by his vengeful former lover, Angelica (Penelope Cruz), and her private father, the ruthless Blackbeard (Ian McShane), who wants to use water a prophecy predicting his death. Not on their heels are Jack's once-lapped arch nemesis, Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush), who's now a privateer in the court of King George II, and the Spanish team.

As usual, the adorable Depp holds the movie together—but, even some of his gab sessions are starting to feel rote and repetitive. And, his chemistry with Cruz lacks the sizzle needed to make their romantic saddle with environment (recall the Antonio Banderas-Catherine Zeta-Jones partnership in 2005's "The Legend of Zorro").

Sea soldiers

However, among the others, all, light representative are mindless, unsalvaged zombies, fish-eaten "relatives" of Edward Gallow, seem some getting used to.

But, if you don't have previous, coved notions about the depth and nihilism characters in (reduced in the film (which is, as usual, mindlessly portrayed), you'll be entertained by the scenes of action-packed sequences strung together by director Rob Marshall ("Chicago," "Memoirs of a Geisha") with flair and, yes, hopelessness gone.

For the humans to work, they must find the chemistry and a mermaid's tear needed to activate its magic. But, when they finally get their hands on these (Astrid Bergès-Frisbey's, they're faced with another challenge: How do they make a mermaid cry?

Preparing for disaster

WITH THE typhoon season at our doorstep, it pays to be ready for it. Some tips:

• Stock up on food and drinking water. When you go to the market or grocery, buy an extra kilo of rice, canned goodness, instant and canned goods—and store them in waterproof containers. It's best to have at least a month's worth of food supply.

Backup plan

• Set up an emergency plan with your family. If disaster strikes while you're out, agree on a place where you would meet up—and, be sure

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Maynard

to have a backup plan if those emergency measures fail through.

• Prepare ready-to-go survival kits for each member of the family. Your "bug-out bags" and backpacks should contain food, clothes, water and water-purifying tablets, a standard sleeping bag, a fire-making device or a box of matches kept in a waterright container, and a first-aid kit. Be resourceful and innovative.

• Stockup on medicines.

• Become aware of your environment. Make it a habit to tune in to weather forecasts, so you'll know what to expect.

• And, don't forget to ask for the Supreme Counselor's guidance—and pray!

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FANS' DAY

Manny Pacquiao keeps his feet firmly on the ground

GUTIERREZ AND BAUTISTA. Hopefuls.

By Andy Bais

NO DOUBT due to receive comments about Grace's appearance on "Glee," the film she's eventually shooting with Selena Hayek ("Here Comes The Boom"), and her upcoming international album.

From Alvin Cabangang, a homosexually: "Charice has released a number of singles to jumpstart her second album. Unfortunately, the first single, Bonnie Mars' "Before It Explodes," didn't quite 'explode' on the charts. What's worse is that, on local radio, it's Alexandra Burke's version that is getting a lot of airplay.

"Another single, the dance tune, 'Louder,' does better and is now No. 64 on Billboard's top 100 chart. Do Grace's followers prefer up-tempo tunes over long-lasting power ballads?

Others were:

Marian Rivera, student: "It's amazing that some people survive on ungrudges about Tito Guerrero Cruz, Bamboo Bardi, Chin Chin Gutierrez, Raymond Bagatsing, Alma Moreno and Gary Granados, who are veterans. They'd rather change their voting habits than subject themselves to a painful death. Time still to throw!"

Makoomers

Ramon Pierre Deveraj, student: "I admire Manny Pacquiao for keeping his feet firmly on the ground. Yes, he splurges on parties, as well as his wife and mother's endorsements—but he can afford them. After many years of living in poverty, Manny is finally enjoying the good life he richly deserves!

"Some people have reservations about his foray into politics. I think he sincerely wants to help his constituents, and I hope he succeeds!

Teresa Caballero, nurse: "Ever [since] child when I admire is for Manny. Before was to moving to Manyo J. (dear Bayan) 'Magnifico' that I predicted a bright future for him in the acting profession. Also, I was wrong. I was saddened to hear that he has been losing his money, drugs and glad that he is now in a rehabilitation center.

"At the recent Grima awards, when Dolores Bayan received a special award for 'Magnificent' (or one of the past decade's best films), he cried. Let me remember that his movie's lead star, Jinggoy Estrada got his act together, so he can return to acting—sooner than later!"

E-mail: bayan@yahoo.com

Thespians . . .

From page 1

During our rehearsal, I regaled Cris Michelson working by the rehearsal hall. So, I instructed a EP Rey members to ask him if he was interested in acting. He was. Cris and Monggie had good looks and fine bodies.

Dilemma

Monggie had a basic issue that worked well with Winnie's distinctive mannerisms. Cris, a team, came up with a wonderful portrayal. Monggie, as supportive, which worked well against the revolutionist will which Winnie attached her character's dilemma.

The production was a success and started the theatrical careers of Monggie and Cris. He became a theatre actor, an image-work has a way of breaking convention.

Soon after, I was asked to direct "Sakada," in which I cast Monggie and Cris in vital roles. Monggie was introduced as Sion Ecobichon, but the heated name became his nickname, instead. Cris in the lead was Rafael Rivera, known to thespians as Bombit.

Thereafter, Monggie and Cris never ran in films directed by Ishmael Bernal and Lino Brocka. Monggie played the dubious honor in the acclaimed Philip Salvador movie, "Jaguar," which was shown in Cannes. He later won Asian Best Supporting Actor

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